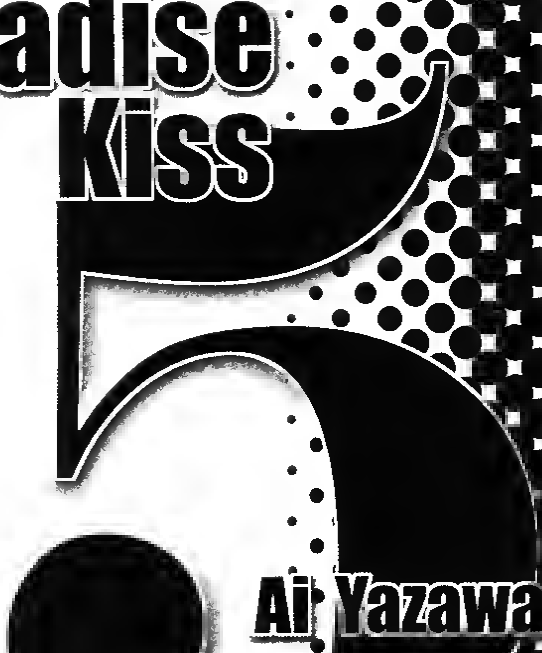
PARADISE KISS
5
Ai Yazawa

Paradise Kiss



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Volume 5

Ai Yazawa

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WHAT'S HAPPENED SO FAR

It turns out that Yukari is a natural when it comes to modeling. In no time, her career has taken off, and soon she's fielding offers from bigtime modeling agencies. But she soon discovers she needs her parents' consent before anyone can represent her. Yeah, like that's ever going to happen! When Yukari asks the love of her life, George, for some professional guidance, he gives her grief—not answers. Does this guy even know the meaning of love? Yukari is beginning to wonder if he's worth her time—or her devotion.

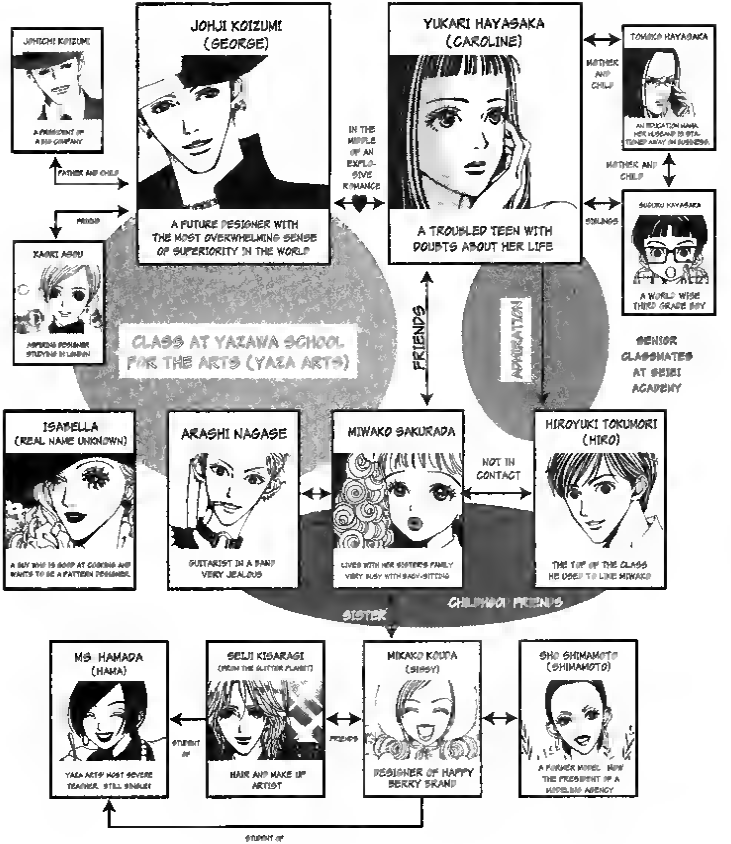
STAGE REVIEW

THIS TIME IT'S I'M IMPRESSED THAT YOU FIGURED IT OUT ON THE FIRST WORD, HONEY

THAT'S NOT TRUE THERE'S MISS KISARAGI, SEIJI, AND GLITTERY STARBOY FINE, BUT THE THING IS, PEOPLE HAVE MANY DIFFERENT SIDES TO THEM, AND WHATEVER HAPPENS, YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND THEM IF YOU ONLY LOOK AT THEM FROM A SINGLE PERSPECTIVE AFTER PHILOSOPHY IS LANGUAGE

EVERYONE OPEN UP PAGE 123 IN VOLUME 4 DON'T YOU THINK THE HEROINE'S MONOLOGUE IN THE FIRST FRAME IS INCOMPREHENSIBLE? IT SAID, "AFTER I MET GEORGE" IT SHOULD'VE SAID "WHEN I MET GEORGE" RIGHT? OR ARE WE GOING TO GO BACK AT SQUARE-ONE? I THINK IT'LL END UP THE SAME WAY EVERY TIME THEN IT WAS ALL WRONG IN THE FIRST PART? THAT'S PRETTY RARE A MISTAKE IS MADE, AND THEN IT'S MANIPULATED TO SEEM LIKE YOU'RE GETTING A DEAL? THAT'S ENOUGH MESSING WITH PEOPLE'S FEELINGS ON THAT NOTE, THIS MANGA IS ABOUT TO BEGIN ITS FINAL VOLUME BUT THERE'S NO REASON TO BE BUMMED, THE AUTHOR LIKES TO REUSE CHARACTERS IN DIFFERENT PLACES, SO I'M SURE THERE'LL EVENTUALLY BE A SEQUEL WITH SOMETHING LIKE, "GEORGE KOIZUMI... SPY EXTRAORDINAIRE!" WE'LL MEET AGAIN THEN

MAIN CHARACTERS


JUNICHI KOIZUMI
A PRESIDENT OF A BIG COMPANY
FATHER AND CHILD
JOHJI KOIZUMI (GEORGE)
A FUTURE DESIGNER WITH THE MOST OVERWHELMING SENSE OF SUPERIORITY IN THE WORLD
FRIEND
KAORI AOKI
ASPIRING DESIGNER STUDYING IN LONDON
IN THE MIDDLE OF AN EXPLOSIVE ROMANCE
YUKARI HAYASAKA (CAROLINE)
A TROUBLED TEEN WITH DOUBTS ABOUT HER LIFE
MOTHER AND CHILD
TOMOKO HAYASAKA
AN EDUCATION MAMA. HER HUSBAND IS STILL TENDING AWAY IN SURGERY.
MOTHER AND CHILD
SIBLINGS
SUGURU HAYASAKA
A WORLD WISE THIRD GRADE BOY
CLASS AT YAZAWA SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS (YAZA ARTS)
FRIENDS
APPRECIATION
SENIOR CLASSMATES AT SEIEI ACADEMY
ISABELLA (REAL NAME UNKNOWN)
A BOY WHO IS GOOD AT COOKING AND WANTS TO BE A PATTERN DESIGNER.
AKASHI NAGASE
GUITARIST IN A BAND VERY JEALOUS
MIWAKO SAKURADA
LIVES WITH HER SISTER'S FAMILY VERY BUSY WITH BABY-SITTING
NOT IN CONTACT
HIROYUKI TOKUMORI (HIRO)
THE TOP OF THE CLASS HE USED TO LIKE MIWAKO
SISTER
CHILDHOOD FRIENDS
MS. HAMADA (HAMA)
YAZA ARTS' MOST SEVERE TEACHER. STILL SINGLE!
STUDENT OF
SEIJI KISARAGI (FROM THE GLITTER PLANET)
HAIR AND MAKE UP ARTIST
FRIENDS
MIKAKO KOUTA (SISSY)
DESIGNER OF HAPPY BERRY BRAND
SHO SHIMAMOTO (SHIMAMOTO)
A FORMER MODEL. NOW THE PRESIDENT OF A MODELING AGENCY
STUDENT OF

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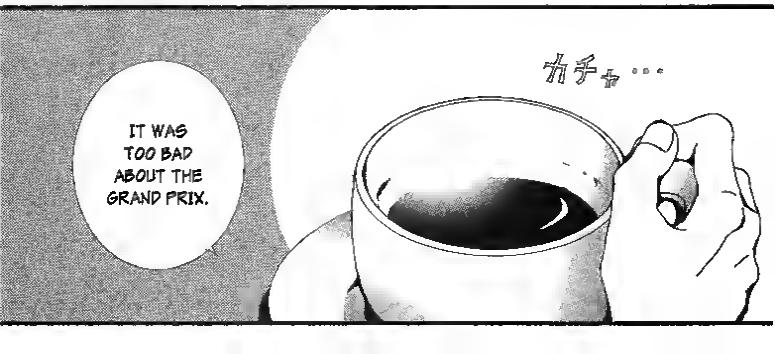
STAGE 39



YEAH
REALLY?
I'M SURE YOU'RE THINKING THAT THE AUDIENCE WAS STUPID OR SOMETHING
AND CLOSING YOUR EYES TO YOUR OWN SHORTCOMINGS
WELL, TO ME IT'S AMAZING THAT THE ANACHRONISTIC CLOTHES YOU DESIGN ACTUALLY TOOK SECOND PLACE.
I GUESS EVERYONE'S DRAWN INTO YOUR WORLD WHEN IT FEELS SO COMPLETE
BUT YOU'RE TOO ELABORATE.
IT'S NOT A HAIR AND MAKEUP CONTEST YOU KNOW!
I was more obsessed with the blue roses and the braided hair than the dress
OH
Ha ha
MR KISARAGI SAID THE SAME THING
SEIJI...
I'M EVEN MORE SURE OF IT IF YOU'RE ADMITTING IT
...
AND THAT MODEL!
WHERE DID YOU FIND SUCH A PRETTY GIRL?
I'M SURE THERE WERE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO VOTED FOR YOUR STUFF BECAUSE THEY WERE SEDUCED BY HER.

HER FACE AND HER BODY, OF COURSE BUT EVEN HER COLLARBONES AND THE ARCHES OF HER FEET ARE ABSOLUTELY PERFECT
WHAT ABOUT HER IS THE MOST SEDUCTIVE FOR YOU?
THAT'S TOUGH FOR YOU, SINCE YOU'RE SUCH A SUCKER FOR PERFECTION
Ha ha ha ha!
What're you gonna do?
Ha ha ha!
RIGHT.
ACTUALLY, I'M SEDUCED BY HER
I WISH I KNEW WHY SHE'S THE WAY SHE IS
SHE HAS A BAD PERSONALITY!
NO, IT'S NOT BAD IT'S JUST THAT EVERYTHING SHE DOES OR DOESN'T DO AFFECTS ME
I'M STARTING TO BELIEVE THAT SHE WAS BORN INTO THIS WORLD WITH THAT PERSONALITY AND THAT BODY JUST TO TOSS ME AROUND EMOTIONALLY
YOU'RE COMPLETELY WRONG TO THINK ANYONE WAS BORN INTO THIS WORLD JUST FOR YOU
IT'S NOT A CRIME TO HAVE AT LEAST ONE PERSON IN THE WORLD LIKE THAT, IS IT?

SO...
HOW'S IT GOING IN LONDON?
YEAH.
OH.
IT'S FUN.
IT'S REALLY STIMULATING BECAUSE THE SCHOOL AND ALL THE STUDENTS ARE REALLY AMBITIOUS AND INTO IT.
THERE ARE A LOT OF DIFFERENT KINDS OF PEOPLE, SO IT KEEPS THINGS INTERESTING.
THERE'S A LOT MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG DESIGNERS, TOO.
REALLY?
YEAH.
BRITISH CONSUMERS AREN'T OBSESSED WITH BRAND NAMES LIKE THE JAPANESE.
SO IT'S COOL TO BE AN UNKNOWN DESIGNER AS LONG AS YOUR CLOTHES ARE INTERESTING.
MAKES IT EASY TO SELL YOUR CLOTHES.
I'M DOWN WITH THAT.
YOU SHOULD COME TO LONDON, GEORGE.

I don't really know how you'd do in England either but...
HERE IN JAPAN, STARTING WITH JUST YOUR PERSONALITY, I HONESTLY DON'T THINK YOU'LL EVER BE ACCEPTED
SOMEONE LIKE YOU WHO TOTALLY IGNORES TRENDS AND MAKES WHATEVER HE FEELS LIKE MAKING WILL DEFINITELY DO BETTER OVER THERE THAN HERE!
Ha ha ha!
YOU SHOULD DEFINITELY COME
YOU'RE ABOUT TO GRADUATE FROM YAZAGAKU, SO COME TO LONDON.
YEAH PROBABLY
EVEN IF YOU DIDN'T GET A SCHOLARSHIP, I'M SURE YOUR PARENTS WOULD PAY FOR YOU TO STUDY ABROAD IN A SECOND, WOULDN'T THEY?
WE'RE ABOUT TO CLOSE..
I'LL THINK ABOUT IT.
EXCUSE ME

I'M SORRY...
CALLING YOU TO COME OUT SO LATE
AND YOU WERE WITH A GIRL, TOO!
NO WORRIES. IT WAS FUN.
I WAS HAPPY TO SEE YOU
WHERE'S YOUR HOTEL? I'LL DRIVE YOU.
OH, THAT'S OKAY
I'M STAYING OVER THERE... YOU CAN SEE IT FROM HERE.
YEAH...
HEY, GEORGE?
THE GIRL YOU WERE WITH WHEN I CALLED WAS THAT MODEL, RIGHT?
I'm impressed...
HOW DID YOU KNOW?
OF COURSE I KNEW
YOU WERE GOING ON ABOUT HER AND DESTINY AND EVERYTHING
SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE TOTALLY IN LOVE
.....

I'M RELIEVED
YOU'RE ACTUALLY HAVING A SERIOUS RELATIONSHIP
I'M ALWAYS SERIOUS
IT'S JUST THAT PEOPLE DON'T UNDERSTAND ME
THEY CAN'T UNDERSTAND
I JUST THOUGHT YOU WERE TEASING ME
THAT'S HOW I EXPRESS MY LOVE.
IF I LIKE SOMEONE, I WANT TO BE MEAN TO THEM
YOU ARE SUCH A SADIST
OR, MAYBE JUST INFANTILE?
Like those boys that throw sand on the girls they like in the sandbox
It just makes them hate you
Ha ha ha!
Little boy
YOU NEED ATTENTION, GEORGE
SO YOU DO UNDERSTAND
HEY

I'M ABOUT TO GET A NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS, SO I'LL LET YOU KNOW.
I'LL WRITE YOU AGAIN SOON.
I'LL SEE YA.
COOL
LET'S BOTH TRY OUR BEST, GEORGE
I'LL PAY LOTS OF ATTENTION TO YOU!
I'LL BE WAITING IN LONDON!

I REALIZED I CAN FORGET ALL MY PAIN AND WORRIES WHEN I M STUDYING
I STUDIED FOR MY EXAMS UNTIL DAWN
I COULDN'T SLEEP AGAIN THAT NIGHT.

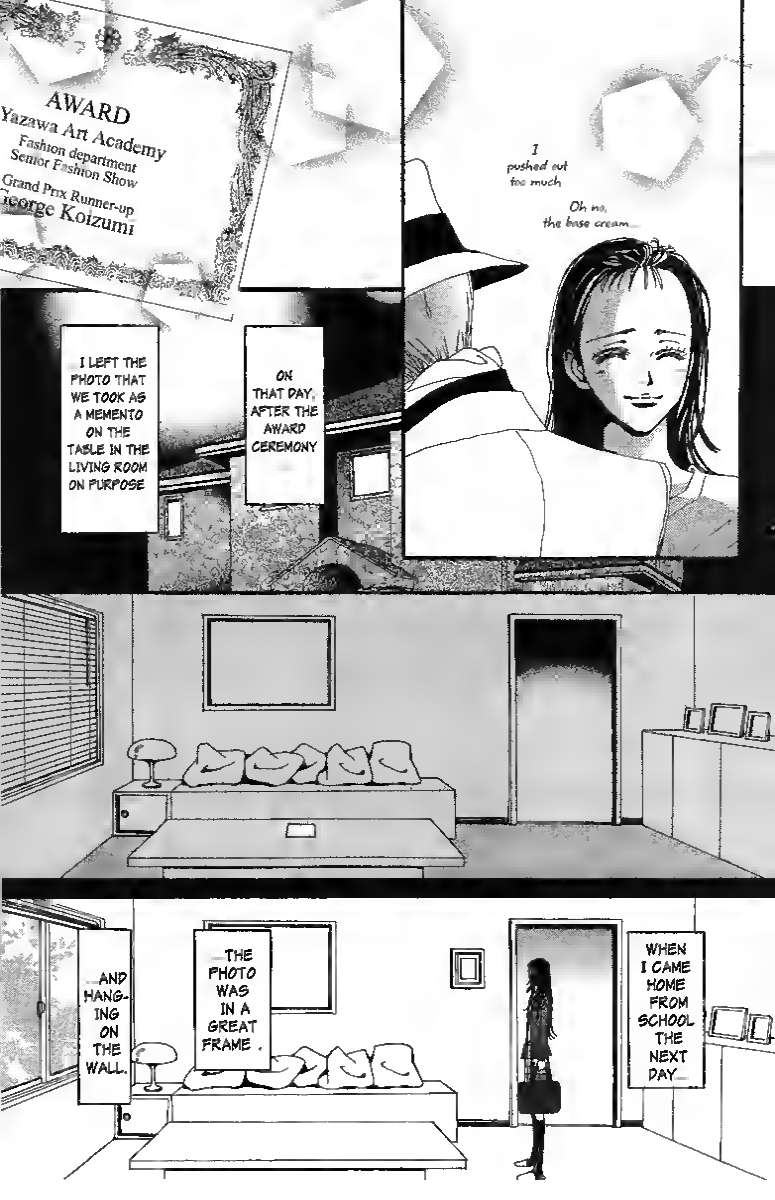
YAZABAKU FESTIVAL
IT'S SO STRANGE
NOW I'M RUNNING TOWARD THEM
I WAS RUNNING AWAY FROM MY STUDIES NOT SO LONG AGO
YOU'RE RUNNING AWAY AGAIN, CAROLINE!
WHAT?
NO, I'M NOT RUNNING AWAY
JUST LIVING ON MY OWN
I'D LOOK FOR A PLACE TO LIVE FIRST
IT'S REALLY JUST BETTER TO LEAVE HOME...
AND GET ENOUGH MODELING WORK TO EAT RATHER THAN BEING DEPENDENT ON MY PARENTS AND GOING TO COLLEGE FOR NO REASON
But will I earn enough?
FIRST I HAVE TO WORK LIKE CRAZY
NO.
DO YOU HAVE MONEY TO PAY RENT?
DON'T WORRY.
YOU'RE GOING TO BE IN THE HAPPY BERRY SHOW, RIGHT?
GET LOTS OF GIGS FROM THAT

AS LONG AS IT DOESN'T GO UNDER
THAT AGENCY SHOULD BE COOL
BUT I TALKED TO THE PRESIDENT ABOUT IT. AND SHE SAID I SHOULD JUST DO IT ON MY OWN SINCE I GOT THE JOB BEFORE I SIGNED WITH THE AGENCY
SUPPOSED TO YEAH
HEY!
THERE YOU ARE, NAGASE!
PLUS, IT'S NOT THROUGH THE AGENCY... SO YOU'LL GET ALL THE MONEY
I'LL ASK MY SISTER TO TALK YOU UP
WHAT WHAT? DO YOU MEAN, LOTS?
DIDN'T YOU HAVE TO GO THROUGH AN AGENCY?
WHAT?
WHERE'S KOIZUMI?
I'LL RETURN THE ACCESSORIES I CONFISCATED!
And I don't want to do it
NO CHANCE.
THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN DO WHAT WE DID YESTERDAY
THE ROSES ARE ALL DEAD ANYWAY
BUT THESE AREN'T FINISHED!
Yeah! We'll get them back!
THEN FINISH THEM BY THE AFTERNOON!
It's the Grand-Prix runner up!
YOU HAVE TO BE IN THE AWARD SHOW!
HEY! YOUR MODEL IS HERE!
You're heavy mmm. Alice You're too big to be picked up
HE'S PROBABLY NOT HERE YET
WHO KNOWS?
EVEN IF KOIZUMI ISN'T HERE, PLEASE BE THERE!
OH SO THAT'S IT

SHE'S SUCH A TYRANT.
AND WHERE'S GEORGES!
I CAN'T GET THROUGH TO HIS CELL PHONE TODAY, EITHER.
WHAT THE HELL IS HE DOING AT THIS HOUR!
It's his award ceremony.
Arashi!!!! Pick me up!
DON'T TELL ME HE'S BEEN WITH KAORI THIS WHOLE TIME.!
THERE'S NO WAY THESE WILL BE FINISHED BY THIS AFTERNOON
I GUESS AS LONG AS THEY'RE SORT OF THE RIGHT FORM.
WHAT SHOULD WE DO ABOUT THE HAIR AND MAKEUP?
DON'T WORRY. I'LL ASK SEIJI.
WHAT?
I wonder if he's here?
ISN'T IT A VIOLATION TO HAVE YOUR TEACHER INVOLVED?
NO. IT'S FINE
THE CONTEST IS OVER ANYWAY
THAT'S TRUE.
IT'S THE AWARD SHOW. SO AS LONG AS WE LOOK GOOD, IT'S FINE
...
I have a little favor to ask.
Halloween. Well it is Miyuka.
They totally look like father and daughter.
It's not Arashi's kid, but...
ARASHI TOTALLY DOTES ON KIDS.
You better hold it in until we get to the bathroom.
What?
Arashi, I have to pee.

THANK YOU!
I love you, Sorry
BUT
REALLY?
BUT?
I'M HEADING OVER THERE RIGHT NOW.
I DON'T MIND.
YEAH!
ヴぉぉぉぉぉぉ…
WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER TO ASK HIM?
I'M WITH KOIZUMI.
KAORI WASN'T MY ONLY RIVAL.

EXCUSE ME FOR BEING UGLY.
But I guess we all are compared to slippery, Stanley Awul he's an alien.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.
YOUR LEFT CHEEK IS SWOLLEN.
WHAT HAPPENED? YOUR FACE...
WHAT?
WHAT DOES YOUR MOTHER THINK OF YOUR PRECIOUS FACE...?
BUT...
I'M SURE HER MOTHER REGRETS HITTING HER
DON'T LOSE IT, GEORGE
SHE HIT YOU AGAIN?
IT WAS A PRETTY HARD BLOW
IT HASN'T GONE DOWN YET...!
NO WAY!
I DIDN'T NOTICE.
REALLY?
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
I'M SORRY
Oh, now that you mention it it is a little bit.
Is it a cavity?
WE CAN LEAVE YOUR HAIR DOWN FOR THE SHOW TO HIDE IT. BUT...
I'm the one who made you go...
NO
IT WAS MY FAULT YESTERDAY

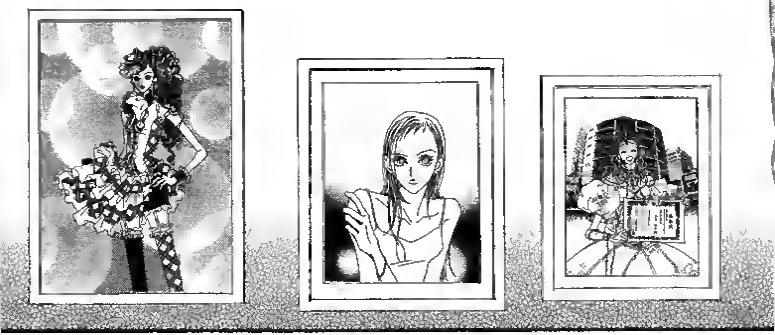

AWARD
Yazawa Art Academy
Fashion department
Senior Fashion Show
Grand Prix Runner-up
George Koizumi
I pushed out too much
Oh no, the base cream...
I LEFT THE PHOTO THAT WE TOOK AS A MEMENTO ON THE TABLE IN THE LIVING ROOM ON PURPOSE
ON THAT DAY, AFTER THE AWARD CEREMONY
...AND HANGING ON THE WALL.
...THE PHOTO WAS IN A GREAT FRAME.
WHEN I CAME HOME FROM SCHOOL THE NEXT DAY...

ONCE I GET THE APPEARANCE FEES FROM WORKING THE HAPPY BERRY SHOW...

I'LL HAVE TO BUY SOME ACCESSORIES FOR MY MOTHER, WHO DOESN'T WEAR ANY ACCESSORIES AT ALL.

SOMETHING SHINY THAT MAKES A GIRL FEEL HAPPY

STAGE 40



...SHE MODELED FOR THE BRAND HAPPY BERRY...
AND THIS IS A PHOTO FROM WHEN SHE WAS IN A SHOW...

HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE BRAND HAPPY BERRY?
I'M SORRY
I'M SORRY TO ADMIT I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT FASHION...
IT'S A BRAND THAT'S VERY POPULAR WITH YOUNG PEOPLE RIGHT NOW
OH, REALLY? HOW LOVELY.
YOU MUST BE VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT FASHION SINCE YOUR DAUGHTER'S A MODEL.
AND A BEAUTIFUL ONE AT THAT!
NO, NO, I'M NOT AT ALL
I'M STUDYING LIKE CRAZY WITH MY DAUGHTER
YOUR DAUGHTER REALLY IS BEAUTIFUL
JUST LIKE HER MOTHER
Ho ho ho!
OH, STOP IT!
大ホーホーホー
——

YUKARI! YOU'RE HOME?!
COME SAY HELLO TO OUR GUEST!
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK
YES, I'D LOVE TO SEE THEM.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE SOME OF THE MAGAZINES MY DAUGHTER'S IN?
右!!
MRS TEZUKA
THIS IS MY DAUGHTER YUKARI
NICE TO MEET YOU
WHO'S MRS TEZUKA?
OH MY, A SEIEI ACADEMY UNIFORM!
THAT'S WHAT THEY MEAN BY BEAUTY AND BRAINS.
OH, IT'S NOT SUCH A BIG DEAL.
オホホホホ
SO THIS IS HOW IT FEELS TO WISH THERE WAS A HOLE IN THE GROUND TO DISAPPEAR INTO

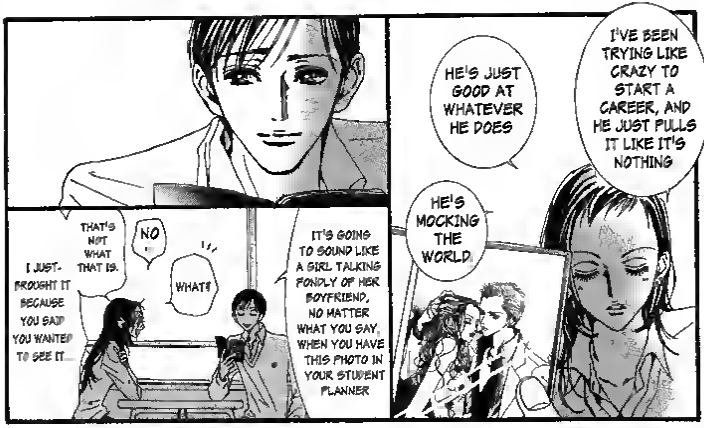
あはは
How does it feel to have your mom as a rival?
I'M IN LOVE WITH YOUR MOTHER.
WHY DOES THAT MAKE YOU SO HAPPY?!
WEREN'T YOU ON MY SIDE NOT SO LONG AGO?!
LOVE CAN END SUDDENLY.
ゲラゲラゲラゲラ
……
I'm curious
AND SO WHO WAS SHE? THIS TEZUKA PERSON?
SHE'S A GOOD MOTHER
I CAN FEEL HER LOVE FOR YOU.
SOME WOMAN WHO WAS SELLING INSURANCE.
AND WE DIDN'T EVEN BUY ANY INSURANCE.
GEORGE HAS BEEN IN AN EXTREMELY GOOD MOOD LATELY.
Hey, you're free today?
Hey, Caroline's here
BUT I HAVE NO IDEA WHY.

IT'S BEEN ONE MONTH SINCE HE BEGAN TRYING TO SELL TO STORES
THE PARADISE KISS CLOTHES WEREN'T TAKEN SERIOUSLY AT ALL
I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD BE AN EASY SELL, BUT I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD BE THIS HARD
HOW MANY STORES HAVE WE GONE TO?
THE ONE ON CONSIGNMENT WILL PROBABLY SELL!
Miwako won't give up!
Counting is no use
CON-SIGNMENT?
INSTEAD OF HAVING A STORE BUY THE CLOTHES, THEY JUST DISPLAY IT FOR YOU IF A CUSTOMER BUYS IT, YOU GET THE MONEY
OH, RIGHT
BUT THAT'S GOOD THAT THEY'LL EVEN DISPLAY
IT'S THROUGH MIKAKO'S CONNEC-TIONS
WHAT'S WRONG WITH USING CONNEC-TIONS?
If it sells, we win!
I'm so pathetic
IT'S DONE!
10 NEW DESIGNS
WHAT? TEN DESIGNS?
That was fast
BECAUSE I'M A GENIUS
キラキラキラ

WHO THE HELL'S GONNA WEAR THIS STUFF?!
They're beautiful, George!
I'LL WEAR THEM!
YOU SHOULD'VE DONE SOME MORE CASUAL STUFF
BUT IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME SO MY BRAIN WAS ALL SLITTERY...
INSIDE YOUR BRAIN, IT'S ALWAYS A FANCY BASH
SORRY TO LEAVE IN THE MIDDLE OF ALL THIS, BUT I HAVE A SHOOT
AGAIN!
YOU'RE POPULAR, CAROLINE.
WHY DON'T YOU MAKE YOUR LIVING AS A MODEL?
AGAIN!
I HAVE TO BE AT F STUDIOS LATER OOPS
F STUDIOS?!
I'M SURE I'M NOT MINE IS FOR A MEN'S MAGAZINE
DON'T TELL ME THE GUY WHO'S POSING AS MY LOVE INTEREST TODAY IS YOU?
MINE, TOO!
Shimamoto.
I CAN'T WAIT
CAROLINE AND GEORGE ARE GOING TO BE IN A MAGAZINE TOGETHER?
SET US FREE!
MAKE YOUR LIVING AS A MODEL, GEORGE!
SHE'S BEEN LOOKING AFTER ME SINCE I WAS A KID. I OWE IT TO HER
I CAN'T SAY NO TO KOZUE.
YOU WERE SO TOTALLY AGAINST IT NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU WERE SCOUTED
WHY DID YOU SUDDENLY DECIDE TO JOIN A MODELING AGENCY?

IT WASN'T MY IDEA.
THEY REQUEST-ED IT.
IN ORDER TO MAKE IT AMAZING, WE EVEN RENTED A BIG OFFICE. IT'S A BIG TO-DO..
BE HOT, YOU TWO.
Executive chair
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? IT'S WORK.
I DON'T WANT TO DO THIS!
YOU SHOULD BE HAPPY.
MEANING, YOU'RE A GREAT COUPLE NO MATTER WHO'S LOOKING.
OKAY, NOW ESTABLISH THAT YOU'RE LOVERS
BE PASSIONATE.
Leave it to me
THAT'S MY SPECIALTY
PASSION
HEY,
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO LUSTFUL
George is hilarious. He's too much.

IT PISSES ME OFF.


I'VE BEEN TRYING LIKE CRAZY TO START A CAREER, AND HE JUST PULLS IT LIKE IT'S NOTHING
HE'S JUST GOOD AT WHATEVER HE DOES
HE'S MOCKING THE WORLD.
IT'S GOING TO SOUND LIKE A GIRL TALKING FONDLY OF HER BOYFRIEND, NO MATTER WHAT YOU SAY, WHEN YOU HAVE THIS PHOTO IN YOUR STUDENT PLANNER
NO
WHAT?
THAT'S NOT WHAT THAT IS.
I JUST- BROUGHT IT BECAUSE YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO SEE IT...

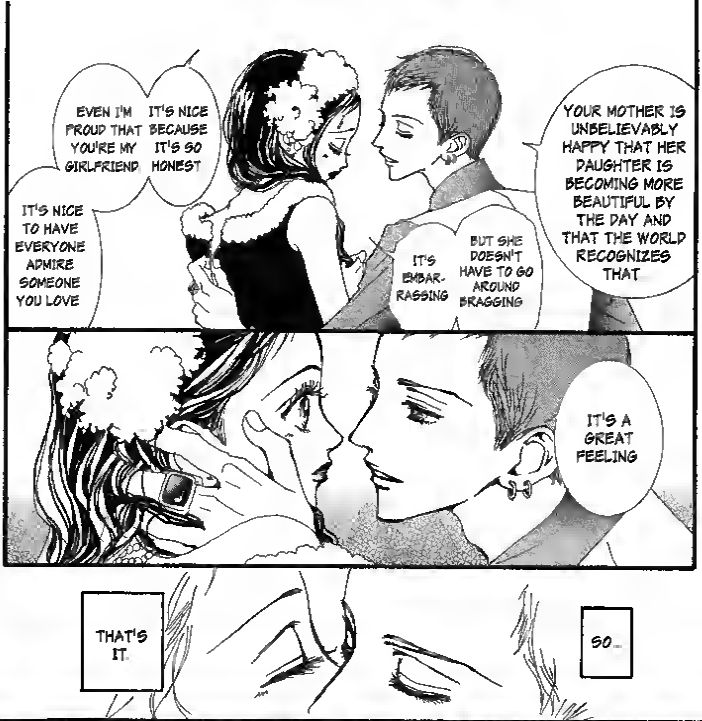
SO YOU PUT IT IN YOUR PLANNER?
YOU KNOW, SO IT WOULDN'T GET BENT.
CAN'T YOU BE HONEST AND JUST BRAG ALREADY?
"MY BOYFRIEND IS SO GOOD LOOKING AND CAN DO EVERYTHING AND IS PERFECT!"
NOT AS MUCH AS YOU.
WHOA!
WHAT'S THIS?!
HE'S SO GOOD LOOKING!
YOUR BOYFRIEND?!
NO.
THAT'S, UM,
FROM A MAGAZINE SHOOT I WAS IN...
OH, HE'S A MODEL
SIGH
IS IT A SECRET THAT HE'S YOUR BOYFRIEND?
NO, THAT'S NOT IT, BUT...

SO HE'S YOUR BOYFRIEND?!
YES.
I'm sorry!
HE'S TOTALLY HOT!
I'M SO JEALOUS!
IT'S YUKARI'S BOY-FRIEND!
WHAT? WHERE? WHAT?
And Yukari looks beautiful too
They look so good together
I'm so narrow-minded
I'M SORRY BUT YOU ARE REALLY OFFENSIVE
HA HA!
He's such a weirdo that I didn't even realize it
SO GEORGE IS THAT GOOD LOOKING
IT'S EMBAR-RASSING, BUT IT'S NOT A BAD FEELING
THERE'S NO WAY HE WOULD FALL FOR THE LIKES OF ME
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
...
YOU MUST BE BROKEN-HEARTED, HIRO YOU WANNA CRY ON MY SHOULDER?
!
REALLY.
EVEN THOUGH I'M BEING SO DIRECT ABOUT HOW INTERESTED I AM IN HER
SO THAT'S WHY SHE HASN'T NOTICED MY FEELINGS AT ALL.
Exasperated
MAYBE IT WAS MY MISTAKE.
IT'S TRUE THAT YUKARI'S BEST CHARACTERISTIC IS HER LOOKS, AND SOMEONE AS GREAT AS HIRO WOULDN'T LIKE A GIRL JUST FOR HER LOOKS.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO ACCEPT IT SO DIRECTLY
HIRO

パーン
I WONDER IF HIRO STILL LIKES MIWAKO EVEN NOW.
MERRY CHRISTMAS!
And that's so romantic.
SO STEADY.
IT'S SO SAD
I WONDER IF HE'S STUDYING FOR HIS EXAMS ALONE AGAIN TONIGHT
WITH A HOPELESS DREAM IN HIS HEART

WHAT'S WRONG, YUKARI?
WHY ARE YOU SIGHING ON CHRISTMAS EVE?
I'M JUST A LITTLE BROKEN-HEARTED.
THERE'S NO WAY THAT HIRO WILL LIKE SOMEONE LIKE ME
.....
WHO'S HIROMI?!
And with an androgynous name!
YOU SHOULD BE PROUD THAT YOU'RE THE FIRST WIFE.
HIROMI'S JUST A LOVER.
HEEY, YOU GOT A COMPUTER!
THEY BOUGHT IT FOR YOU!
NO.
I BOUGHT IT AT A MODEL'S GALA.
MY FATHER WOULDN'T GET IT FOR ME BECAUSE HE TOLD ME HE DOESN'T LIKE TECHNOLOGY

FIRST OF ALL, I DON'T WANT TO DO BUSINESS WITH SOMEONE I HAVEN'T EVEN MET.
I DON'T WANT TO SELL CLOTHES WITHOUT HAVING PEOPLE TRY THEM ON
THAT MIGHT BE COOL! INTERNET SALES!
ARE YOU MAKING A WEBSITE FOR PARADISE KISS OR SOMETHING?
TO BE HONEST, I DON'T LIKE IT MUCH EITHER, BUT I HAD NO CHOICE
LET'S DO IT! I'LL HELP YOU!
EVERYONE ELSE SAID THAT, TOO
YEAH,
DON'T YOU SEE IT?
YOU'RE FALLING APART.
IN A GOOD MOOD?
HOW CAN YOU BE IN SUCH A GOOD MOOD WHEN THINGS ARE THE WAY THEY ARE?
THIS IS NO TIME TO BE PICKY LIKE THAT
THAT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE YOU'RE SO BEAUTIFUL, YUKARI.
SHE DIDN'T SAY NO?
MIDNIGHT?
I TOLD MOTHER I WAS GOING TO A FRIEND'S PARTY SO I PROBABLY WOULDN'T BE HOME UNTIL MIDNIGHT.
YEAH,
And it's Christmas, you know?
YEAH
SHE'S IN SUCH A GOOD MOOD LATELY IT'S SCARY...
WELL, YOU TOO
I DON'T GET IT.
CAN YOU STAY LATE TODAY?
WHAT?!!


EVEN I'M PROUD THAT YOU'RE MY GIRLFRIEND
IT'S NICE BECAUSE IT'S SO HONEST
IT'S NICE TO HAVE EVERYONE ADMIRE SOMEONE YOU LOVE
IT'S EMBARRASSING
BUT SHE DOESN'T HAVE TO GO AROUND BRAGGING
YOUR MOTHER IS UNBELIEVABLY HAPPY THAT HER DAUGHTER IS BECOMING MORE BEAUTIFUL BY THE DAY AND THAT THE WORLD RECOGNIZES THAT
IT'S A GREAT FEELING
THAT'S IT.
SO...
GEORGE IS PRETTY SIMPLE, AFTER ALL.
THAT'S WHY YOU WERE IN SUCH A GOOD MOOD

ピンポーン

ピンポン ピンポン
ピンポン ピンポン
ピンポン ピンポン
SOMEONE'S HERE!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
IT'S JUST A GIVEN THAT WE GET INTERRUPTED
IT'S DISTRACTING!
ピンポン ピンポン
AT LEAST CHECK ON THE INTERCOM!
WHAT IF IT REALLY IS HIROMI!
I don't want to be face-to-face with her
IT'S A WASTE OF SPACE
I DON'T WANT TOTAL CHAOS ON CHRISTMAS EVE!
ピンポン ピンポン
THIS IS A NICE BUILDING, BUT WHY ISN'T IT LOCKED ON THE OUTSIDE?
THAT'S ANNOYING I WONDER IF IT'S HIROMI.
Is it because they don't like modern technology?
Isn't the love scene more important than a guest?
I GUESS TO CUT DOWN ON OVERHEAD COSTS

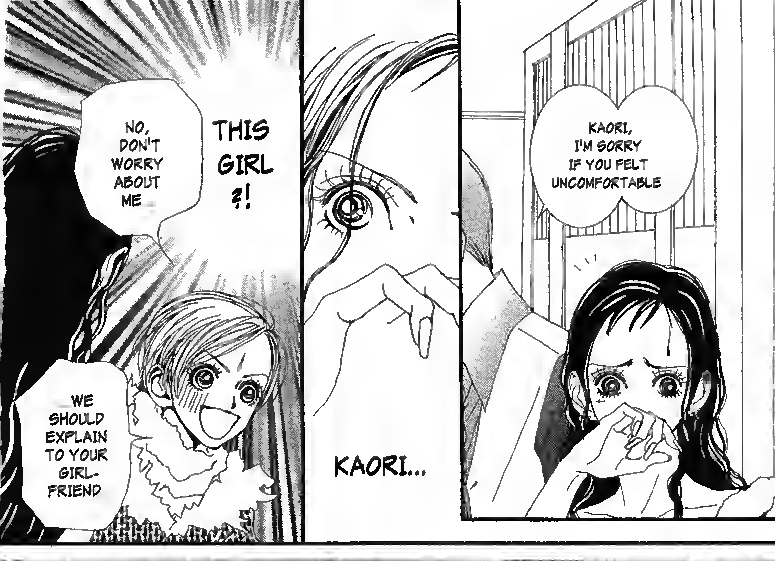
GEORGE...
BUT HE'S REALLY AN AWKWARD AND LONELY GUY.
HE'S PERFECTLY PRINCIPLED...

...WAS THAT I HADN'T REALIZED IT UNTIL THEN.
WHAT I COULDN'T FORGIVE ...

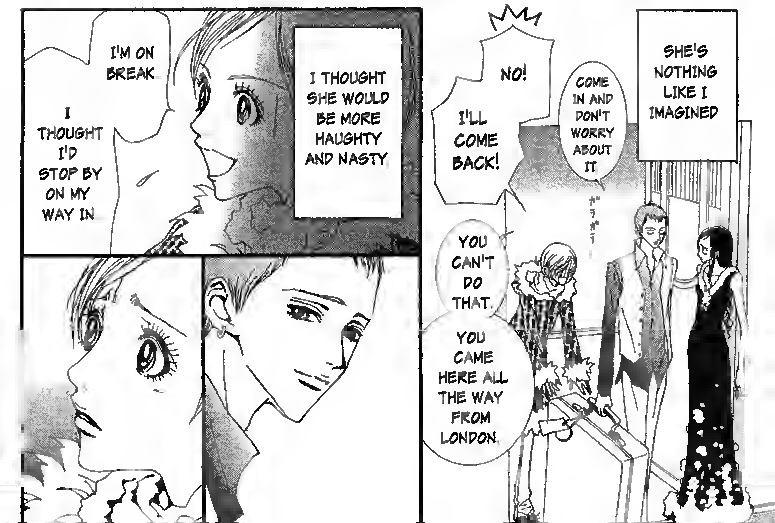
STAGE 41

STOP IT!
ばっ
DON'T TOUCH HIM!

WHO IS THIS WOMAN?!
YUKARI!
WHAT'S YOUR ISSUE, RINGING THE DOORBELL SO FRANTICALLY?
NO! DON'T MISUNDERSTAND THIS!
HEY!
WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU WANT?!
OH... SOR...
WHO ARE YOU?
SHI...
OH...
How ugly
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU.
GEORGE!



I THOUGHT, WHAT AN AMAZING WOMAN...


SHE'S NOTHING LIKE I IMAGINED
COME IN AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
ガラガラ
NO!
I'LL COME BACK!
YOU CAN'T DO THAT. YOU CAME HERE ALL THE WAY FROM LONDON.
I THOUGHT SHE WOULD BE MORE HAUGHTY AND NASTY
I'M ON BREAK
I THOUGHT I'D STOP BY ON MY WAY IN

I'VE NEVER SLEPT OVER!
GEORGE!
YOU SHOULD SLEEP OVER FOR OLD TIME'S SAKE
I CALLED BUT I DIDN'T GET THROUGH
I'M SORRY TO SHOW UP ALL OF A SUDDEN
I USED TO GO TO YAZAGAKU, TOO...
DON'T GET FLUSTERED
I'M FRIENDS WITH GEORGE.
CALM DOWN
I'M KAORI ASO...
I HAVE TO BE PROUD TO BE FIRST WIFE!
I'VE HEARD A LOT ABOUT YOU FROM GEORGE
I KNOW.
OH, REALLY?
I HEARD YOU'RE SO GOOD THAT YOU'RE STUDYING ABROAD ON A SCHOLARSHIP
NO I'M NOT SO GREAT
EXCUSE ME FOR JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS AND SAYING SUCH TERRIBLE THINGS
I'M YUKARI HAYASAKA
I'M VERY PLEASED TO MEET YOU.
PLEASE, COME IN

I WANT TO GO HOME...
If I were a guy, I'd be in love too, George
I like strong willed beauties, too.
HER SKIN'S SO SMOOTH, TOO
SHE REALLY IS BEAUTIFUL UP CLOSE.
HOW UGLY ..
Total bad guy character
I'M THE ONE THAT'S HAUGHTY AND NASTY
WHAT AN UGLY WOMAN I AM!
THERE'S NO WAY I'LL LEAVE THESE TWO ALONE!
YOU MADE THIS DRESS, DIDN'T YOU?
Wow such expensive-looking fabric It's so nice
IT'S REALLY BEAUTIFUL.
GEORGE!

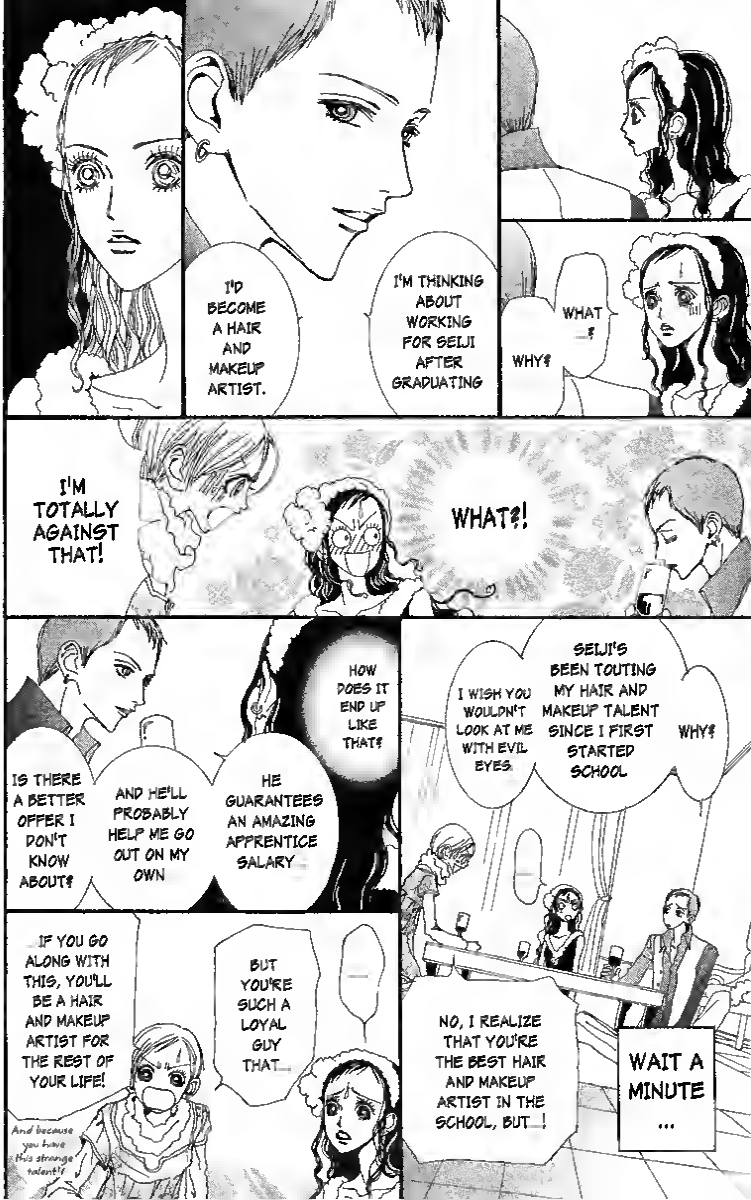
SEE, THERE'S A MATCHING BAG, TOO.
CHRIST-MAS...
IT'S CHRIST-MAS...
SO I THOUGHT I'D GIVE IT MY BEST.
YEAH ...
THANK YOU
SORRY!
Aren't they cut!?
THERE'S ALSO A HEADDRESS AND GLOVES AND A COAT.
I'M SORRY I BOTHERED YOU!
KAORI!
WHAT ?
IS TODAY CHRIST-MAS...
I WAS FREAKING OUT
SO... AM I JET-LAGGED!
Damn. I haven't adjusted my watch. What time is it?
JUST DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
CHRISTMAS ISN'T NECESSARILY A TIME FOR LOVERS TO FOOL AROUND
LET'S ALL CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF CHRIST TOGETHER.
ストン

CHEERS TO JESUS.
GIVE ME A BREAK.
TO SWITCH GEARS SO FAST ...
IF I WASN'T HERE...
...WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED AFTER THAT?
I CAN'T ACCEPT THAT THEY'RE JUST FRIENDS!
I JUST CAN'T ACCEPT IT
どキッ

YOU SHOULD DEFINITELY BECOME A PROFES-SIONAL DESIGNER
YOU HAVE SO MUCH TALENT.
OH
I GUESS YOU READ MY EMAIL.
WHAT?
EMAIL
DID YOU ALREADY GIVE MR KISARAGI AN ANSWER?
NO, NOT YET
HE'S IN MILANO FOR WORK
I'M GLAD I GOT HERE IN TIME
GOOD
DON'T TELL ME HE BOUGHT A COMPUTER SO HE CAN EMAIL HER?
Just for that?
IT WAS WORTH RUSHING OVER HERE
I'M DETER-MINED TO STOP YOU
SO THAT IS WHY YOU'RE HERE.
YOU'RE SO NOSY
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO MAKE PEOPLE WORRY ABOUT YOU, KEEP YOUR STRESS TO YOURSELF
I'M SPENDING A FORTUNE AT THE INTERNET CAFE WITH YOU GOING OFF EVERY DAY
OH... SORRY

HEY! YUKARI, RIGHT?!
EVERY DAY
YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH GEORGE'S DESIGNS, AREN'T YOU?
DON'T JUST SIT THERE! HELP ME CONVINCE HIM!
WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?
...
HE'LL BE THE EMPEROR WITH NO CLOTHES!
IF YOU TAKE CLOTHES AWAY FROM THIS MAN, YOU'RE JUST STUPID!
YOU'RE NOT?
OH, UM, YES
BUT MY REPUTATION'S NOT BAD THERE'S BEEN TALK OF USING MY STUFF IN A MOVIE, TOO
THE STORES DON'T TAKE ME SERIOUSLY
I'VE BEEN SELLING TO PEOPLE WHO I'VE MET THROUGH MODELING WORK
I DON'T PLAN ON NOT MAKING CLOTHES
I WON'T BE A DESIGNER FOR A LIVING
NO, IT'S A SIDE BUSINESS
THEN YOU CHANGED YOUR MIND?
YOUR CLOTHES ARE TOTALLY PERFECT FOR MOVIES
OH

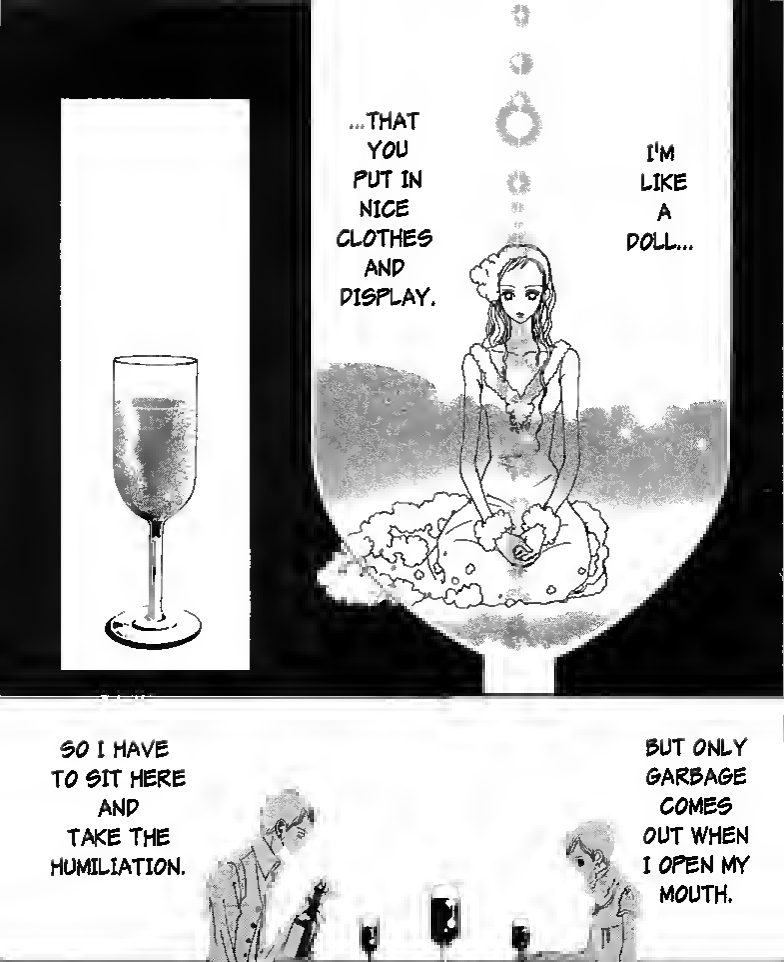
I WANTED TO TELL HER.
NO, IT'S ALL RIGHT
WAS THAT BAD?
I'M SORRY...
I HAVEN'T TOLD ANYONE YET...
YOU HAVEN'T TOLD HER?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
WHAT?
WHAT IS THAT?
WHY DOES SHE KNOW SOMETHING YOU HAVEN'T TOLD ANYONE ELSE?
WHY ARE YOU TELLING HER?
It was just starting
OF COURSE, PARADISE KISS WILL BE OVER, RIGHT?
EVERYONE WILL BE SO DISAPPOINTED
OH...
I THOUGHT IT'D BE BETTER TO TALK ABOUT IT AFTER THAT.
Especially Miwako
EVERYONE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO IT, SO...
WE HAD A CHRISTMAS PARTY AT THE STUDIO TODAY.


I'D BECOME A HAIR AND MAKEUP ARTIST.
I'M THINKING ABOUT WORKING FOR SEIJI AFTER GRADUATING
WHY?
WHAT...?
I'M TOTALLY AGAINST THAT!
WHAT?!
HOW DOES IT END UP LIKE THAT?
IS THERE A BETTER OFFER I DON'T KNOW ABOUT?
AND HE'LL PROBABLY HELP ME GO OUT ON MY OWN
HE GUARANTEES AN AMAZING APPRENTICE SALARY...
I WISH YOU WOULDN'T LOOK AT ME WITH EVIL EYES.
SEIJI'S BEEN TOUTING MY HAIR AND MAKEUP TALENT SINCE I FIRST STARTED SCHOOL
WHY?
...IF YOU GO ALONG WITH THIS, YOU'LL BE A HAIR AND MAKEUP ARTIST FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE!
BUT YOU'RE SUCH A LOYAL GUY THAT...
And because you have His strange talent!?
NO, I REALIZE THAT YOU'RE THE BEST HAIR AND MAKEUP ARTIST IN THE SCHOOL, BUT...!
WAIT A MINUTE ...

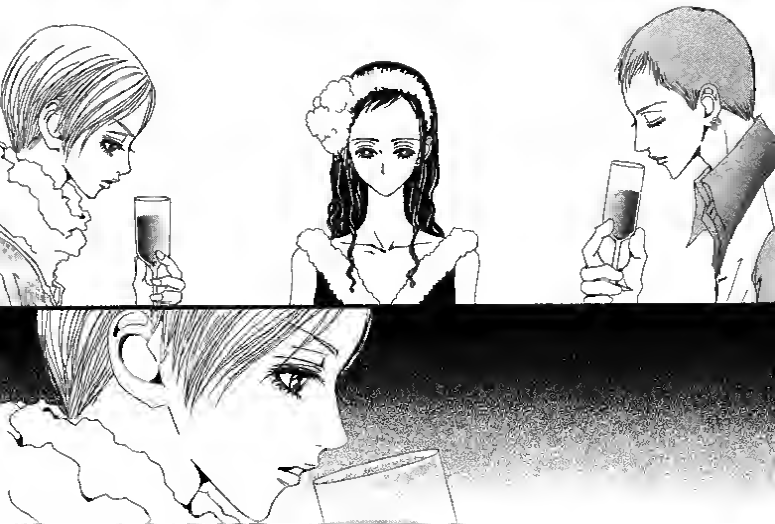
LET'S SUCCEED AS CLOTHING DESIGNERS!
IF I'M GOING TO DO IT, I'LL TAKE IT SERIOUSLY AND MAKE A BUSINESS OUT OF IT.
I LIKE HAIR AND MAKEUP ALMOST AS MUCH AS CLOTHES
THAT'S MY PLAN
WHAT ABOUT DESIGNING?
WH-?
IT'S NO USE
I JUST CAN'T DIG MAKING CLOTHES AS A BUSINESS
I CAN ONLY MAKE CLOTHES I WANT TO MAKE
THAT'S FINE!
THEN LEAVE THE BUSINESS SIDE TO THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU!
YOU'LL EVENTUALLY HAVE CUSTOMERS!
IT'S GREAT IF THE CLOTHES YOU WANT TO MAKE HAPPEN TO COINCIDE WITH WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS
BUT IN MY CASE, MY CREATIONS ARE JUST TOO DIFFERENT
IT'S JUST TOO UNCERTAIN TO DO AS MY LIVING
WHO CARES IF IT'S UNCERTAIN!
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU NEED MONEY!
WHY DON'T YOU STICK TO YOUR RICH-BOY ROOTS?
BUT ALL I AM IS A PSEUDO-RICH BOY

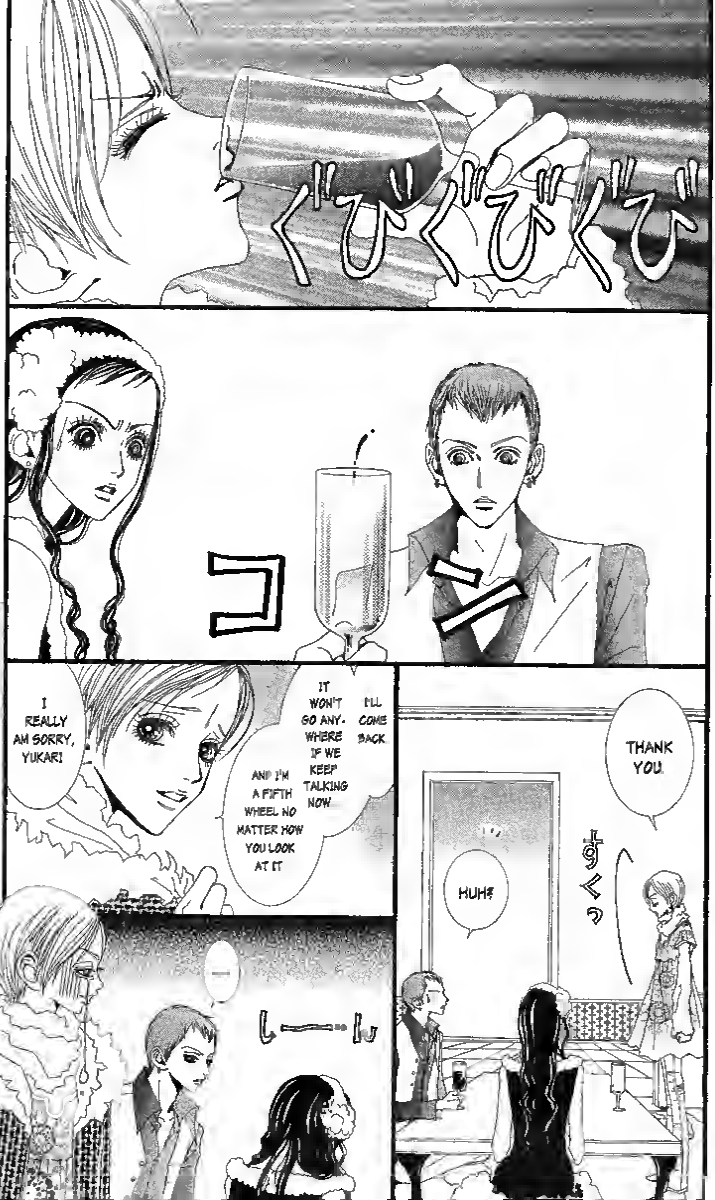
IF MY OLD MAN WERE TO DIE IN AN ACCIDENT TODAY.
MY MOTHER AND I WOULD BE HOMELESS AND DESTITUTE
WE WOULD BE PENNILESS, WITHOUT ANY PROPERTY OR ASSETS
I DON'T CARE IF IT WAS JUST MYSELF..
BUT MY MOTHER
ISN'T STRONG ENOUGH TO LIVE ON HER OWN
EVEN IF IT'S NOT IN LUXURY LIKE WE ARE NOW
I HAVE TO BE ABLE TO MAKE ENOUGH MONEY TO TAKE CARE OF HER IN CASE SOMETHING HAPPENS
I CAN'T PLAY CARELESS RICH-BOY GAMES FOREVER
BUT
I'M SORRY YOU CAME ALL THE WAY HERE, BUT
IT'S A DECISION MADE AFTER A LOT OF CONTEM-PLATING
I KNOW THAT, BUT...

I DON'T GET IT.
BECAUSE GEORGE...
...WAS ALWAYS SMILING AND CHEERFUL AROUND ME.
WHY?
WHY AM I CLOSE TO YOU?
CAN I HAVE ANOTHER GLASS?
YOU DON'T GIVE UP EASILY.
I CAN'T EVEN ENTER ...
...INTO THEIR CONVER-SATION...


I'M LIKE A DOLL...
...THAT YOU PUT IN NICE CLOTHES AND DISPLAY.
BUT ONLY GARBAGE COMES OUT WHEN I OPEN MY MOUTH.
SO I HAVE TO SIT HERE AND TAKE THE HUMILIATION.
I CAN'T WIN UNLESS I JUST SIT HERE.

STAGE 42

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コトン
I REALLY AM SORRY, YUKARI
IT WON'T GO ANY-WHERE IF WE KEEP TALKING NOW
I'LL COME BACK
AND I'M A FIFTH WHEEL NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT
THANK YOU.
HUH?
ぐるぐる
ー
しーん

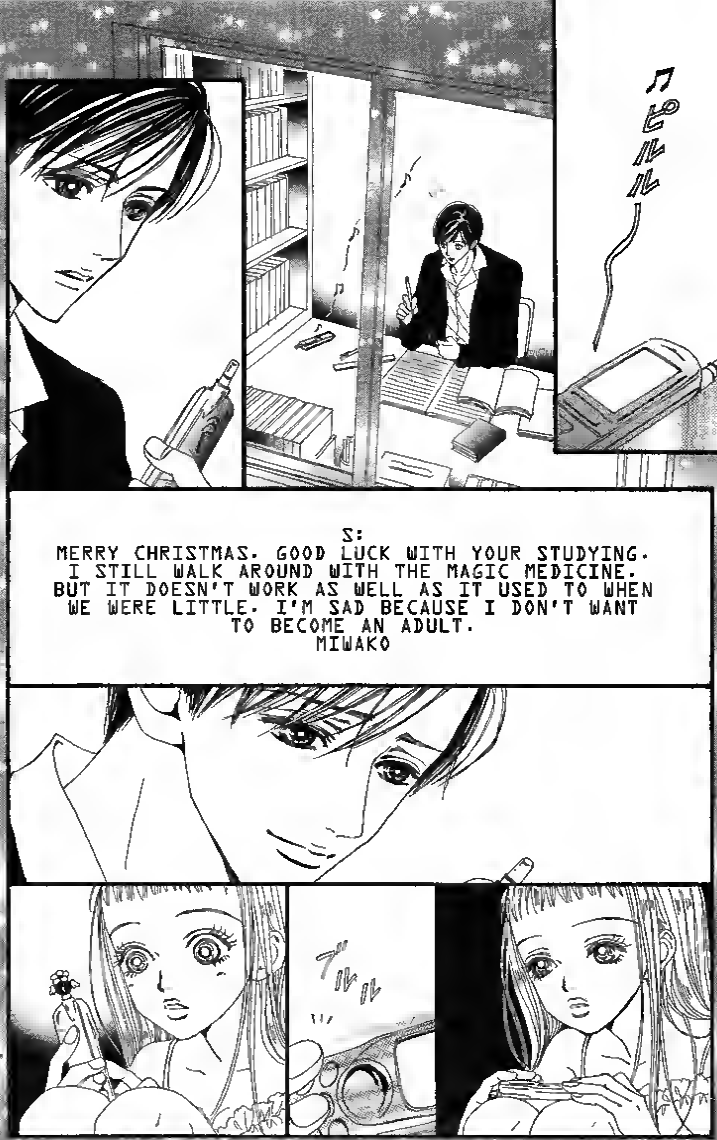
I WISH I COULD DRIVE YOU HOME.
I'M SORRY.
I'LL CALL YOU AGAIN, SO KEEP YOUR CELL PHONE ON
GO CLEAR UP YOUR GIRLFRIEND'S MISUNDER-STANDING AND BE SWEET TO HER.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.
I'LL BE FINE
I HAVE PLENTY OF FRIENDS I CAN STAY WITH.
EVERY-ONE'S USED TO ME IMPOSING ON THEM.
Ha ha ha!
DO YOU HAVE SOME-WHERE TO GO?
DID YOU HAVE A CHANCE TO GET A HOTEL ROOM?
PH
H

SHOULDN'T YOU BE GOING HOME PRETTY SOON, TOO?
I'LL DRIVE YOU HOME.
I TOLD YOU BEFORE, KAORI'S A VERY IMPORTANT FRIEND
WHY COULDN'T YOU HAVE BEEN MORE CIVIL TO HER?
YOU CAN THINK WHAT YOU WANT ABOUT ME...
BUT I'LL SAY THIS FOR KAORI'S HONOR
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN!
DON'T BE SO HIGH AND MIGHTY ABOUT IT!

I'VE NEVER SLEPT WITH HER, EVEN ONCE
KAORI'S NOT THAT KIND OF GIRL.
THEN WHAT ABOUT MY HONOR? I'M SLEEPING WITH YOU!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN SHE'S NOT THAT KIND OF WOMAN?
WHAT IS THAT?
THAT PISSES ME OFF EVEN MORE!
NO MATTER WHAT YOU SAY ABOUT RESPECTING MY WISHES...
I'M NOT YOUR DRESS-UP DOLL OR YOUR SEX TOY.
WHAT AM I TO GEORGE?
... ANYTHING ABOUT MY CHARACTER.
IN THE END, GEORGE DOESN'T APPROVE OF...

NOTHING CAN BE DONE.
...KNOW THAT EITHER...
AND YOU'LL PROBABLY BE LIKE THAT FOREVER.
I'M THIS WAY NO MATTER HOW LONG IT'S BEEN.
I DON'T ...
I CAN'T UNDER-STAND IF YOU SIT THERE AND CRY.
THEN WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?
DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE!
DON'T TURN YOUR BACK ON ME!
WHY DON'T YOU CONTINUE
WHERE WE LEFT OFF?

NOTHING CAN BE DONE.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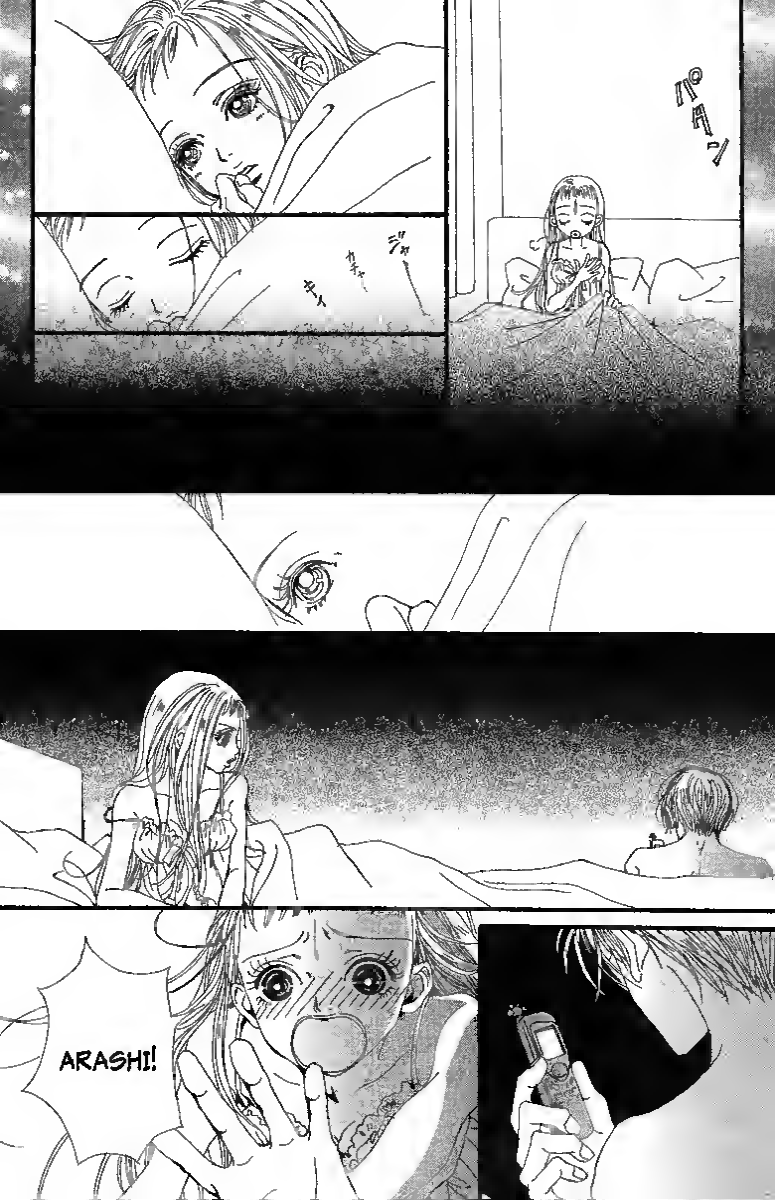
S:
MERRY CHRISTMAS. GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR STUDYING.
I STILL WALK AROUND WITH THE MAGIC MEDICINE.
BUT IT DOESN'T WORK AS WELL AS IT USED TO WHEN
WE WERE LITTLE. I'M SAD BECAUSE I DON'T WANT
TO BECOME AN ADULT.
MIWAKO
ツルル

RE:
MERRY CHRISTMAS. THANK YOU! GOOD LUCK TO YOU, TOO. MY DREAM IS THE MEDICAL DEPT. AT N UNIVERSITY. THERE'S A FAMOUS PROFESSOR OF PSYCHIATRY THERE. I'LL BE ABLE TO HEAL WHATEVER ILLNESSES YOU HAVE, SO DON'T WORRY. YOU'LL GET COUNSELLING FROM ME EVEN THOUGH YOU HATE HOSPITALS, WON'T YOU?
AAAAH! DAMN!
I'M GONNA PEE MY PANTS!

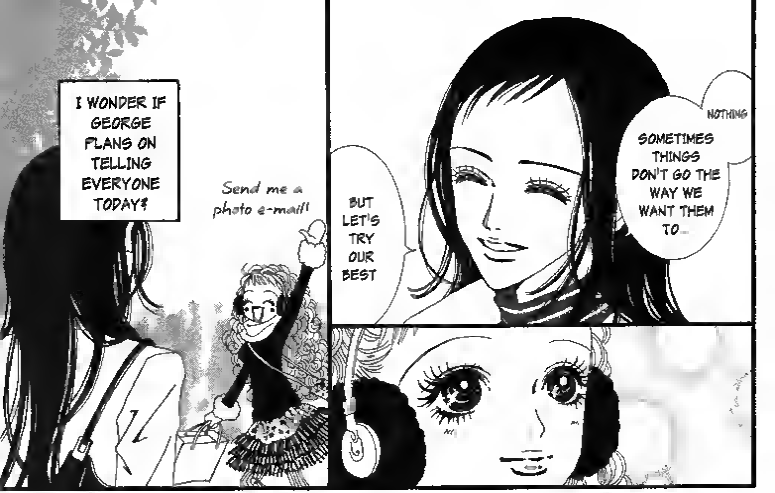

パーン
ARASHI!

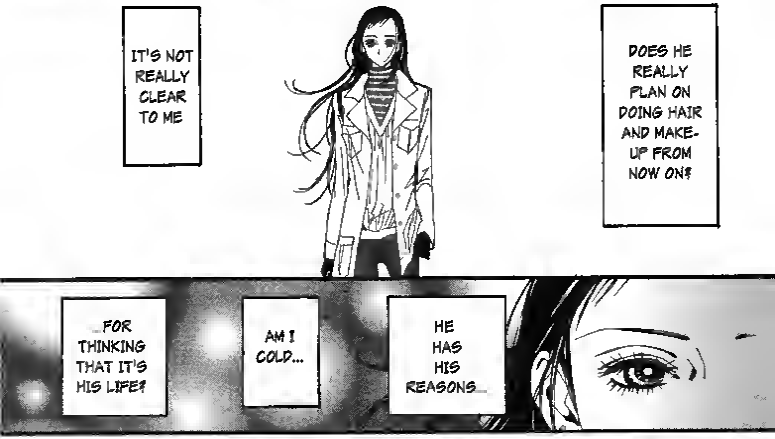
...THEN GET RID OF THEM!
STOP IT! DON'T LOOK AT MY E-MAILS!
IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE SNEAKING AROUND
GIVE IT BACK TO ME!
IF YOU DON'T WANT ME TO READ THEM...
I KNOW!
THERE'S NOTHING WITH HIRO.
BECAUSE HE'S A GOOD PERSON, UNLIKE ME!
I TOLD YOU ...
THERE'S NOTHING GOING ON...

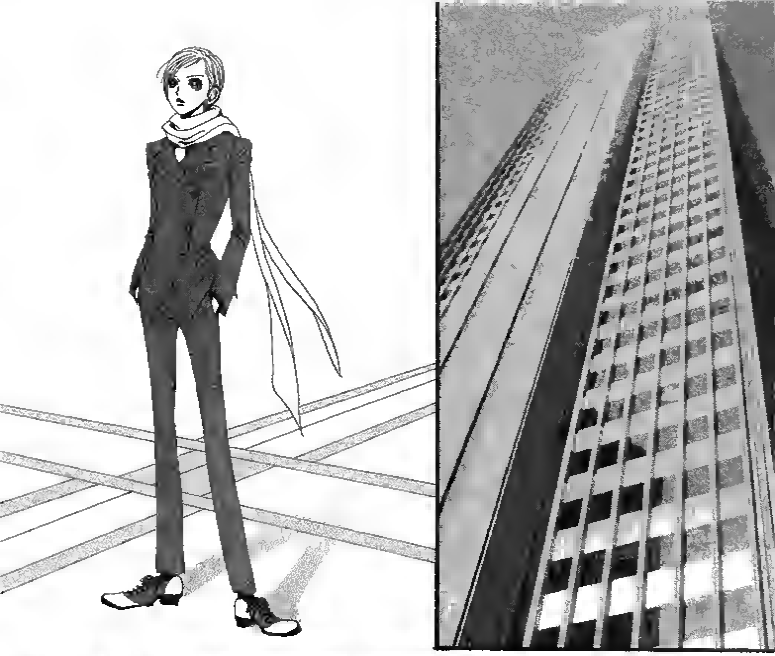
THAT NIGHT I HAD MY HANDS AND FEET TIED UP AND I WAS TOTALLY TREATED LIKE A TOY...
I WAS BLIND-FOLDED, SO I DIDN'T REALLY CARE.
HE WOULD NEVER DO ANYTHING LIKE HURT YOU
I'M NOT AFRAID AT ALL OF WHAT MADNESS LIES WITHIN GEORGE.
WHAT I'M AFRAID OF...
...ARE THOSE GLASSY EYES.
HE LOOKS AT ME WITH DISTAIN...

MIWAKO
LET'S GET THIS ONE!
IT COMES WITH A CAMERA
OKAY
IF WE BOTH HAVE THEM, WE CAN SEND EACH OTHER PHOTOS
YES, LET'S!
IT'S KIND OF EXPENSIVE, BUT SHOULD WE SPLURGE?
I'M SO HAPPY ..
TO HAVE THE SAME PHONE AS YOU AGAIN.
And with a camera!
I WANTED TO BUY A NEW ONE BUT I DIDN'T HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY, SO THIS WAS PERFECT.
BE CAREFUL NOT TO DROP IT AND BREAK IT THIS TIME.
HEY CAROLINE.
I'M GOING TO THE STUDIO NOW. WANNA COME WITH?
YEAH.
BUT I'M GOING HOME TODAY
WHAT? WHY?
How boring
YOU'RE NOT WORKING TODAY, ARE YOU?
I'M STUDYING FOR MY EXAMS AT LEAST FOR APPEARANCES.
I NEED TO STUDY AT LEAST A LITTLE BIT!

IF YOU'RE TAKING THEM, YOU HAVE TO AT LEAST TRY!
YOU CAN'T BE SO PESSIMISTIC!
Go, go!
YEAH...
YOU'RE RIGHT
I THOUGHT I'D AT LEAST TAKE THE EXAMS JUST TO SEE HOW I DO...
I JUST CAN'T MAKE UP MY MIND
IF I DON'T PASS, I'LL BE ABLE TO GIVE UP WITHOUT REGRETS
SO...
YOU'RE PRETTY NONCHALANT, CONSIDERING
YOU DECIDED TO APPLY TO SCHOOL AFTER ALL
Are you okay?
I'M GOING TO TRY HARD, TOO!
I WANT TO MAKE MORE PARADISE KISS ITEMS DURING WINTER BREAK AND GO SELL AT THE STORES AGAIN
THAT'S RIGHT, MIWAKO ABOUT THAT...
IT'S NOT SOMETHING THAT SHOULD COME FROM ME...
WHAT?

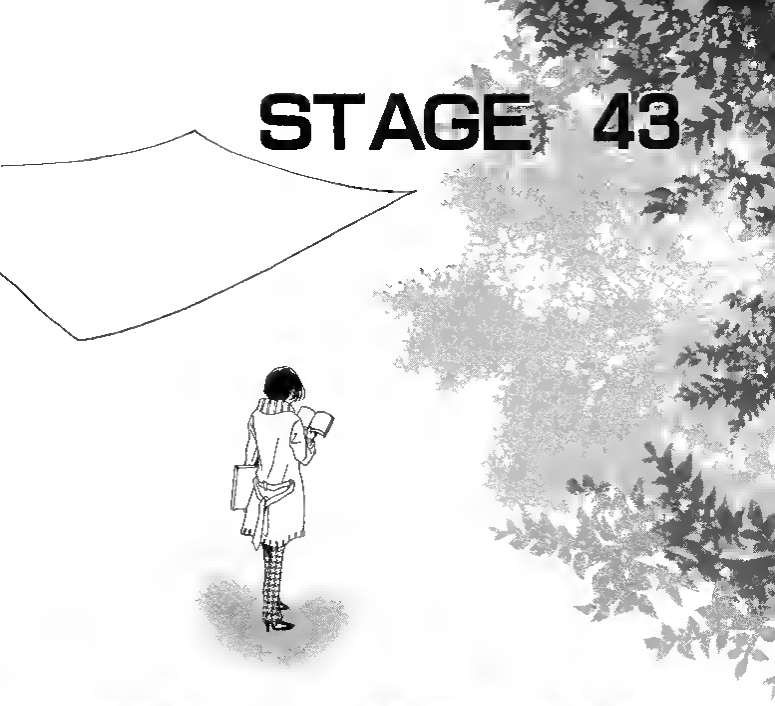

I WONDER IF GEORGE PLANS ON TELLING EVERYONE TODAY?
Send me a photo e-mail!
BUT LET'S TRY OUR BEST
NOTHING
SOMETIMES THINGS DON'T GO THE WAY WE WANT THEM TO...

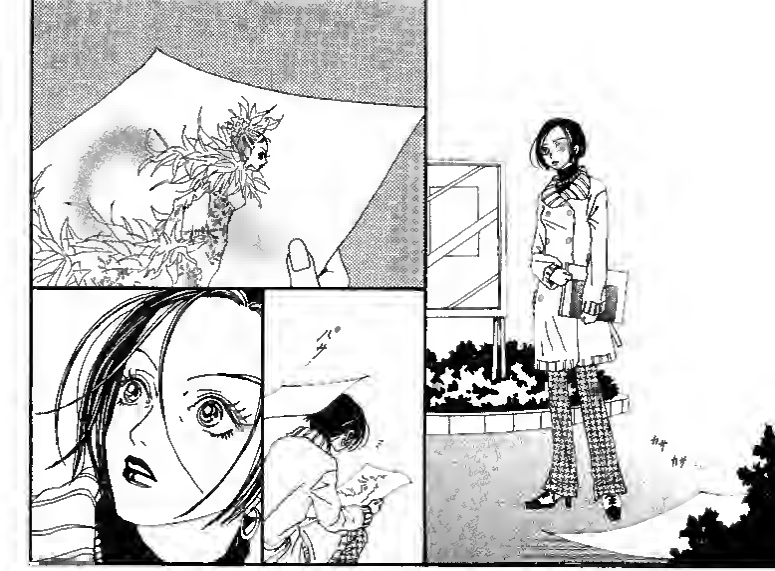

IT'S NOT REALLY CLEAR TO ME
DOES HE REALLY PLAN ON DOING HAIR AND MAKE-UP FROM NOW ON?
...FOR THINKING THAT IT'S HIS LIFE?
AM I COLD...
HE HAS HIS REASONS...
BUT THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO TO HELP HIM


I CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO EXTEND A HAND
TO A GUY WHO TELLS ME IT'S MY LIFE
THEN I ALWAYS BREAKS AWAY FROM ME
AND WON'T SHARE HIS FEELINGS AND WORRIES WITH ME

AND I'LL DO WHAT I WANT, TOO
NIKAIDOU CO.,LTD.
GEORGE SHOULD LIVE THE WAY HE WANTS.

STAGE 43

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KOIZUMI!
YOUR DESIGNS ARE FLYING!
HUH?
THEY'RE FLYING AWAY IN THE WIND!
OH...
I'M AT WORK BECAUSE I'M BUSY!
IF YOU'RE BORED, I'LL GO OUT ON A DATE WITH YOU.
YOU'RE AT SCHOOL DURING WINTER BREAK!
HS HAMADA.
DON'T MAKE MORE WORK FOR ME!
I WALKED AROUND COLLECTING THEM, SO CHECK TO SEE THAT THEY'RE ALL THERE!

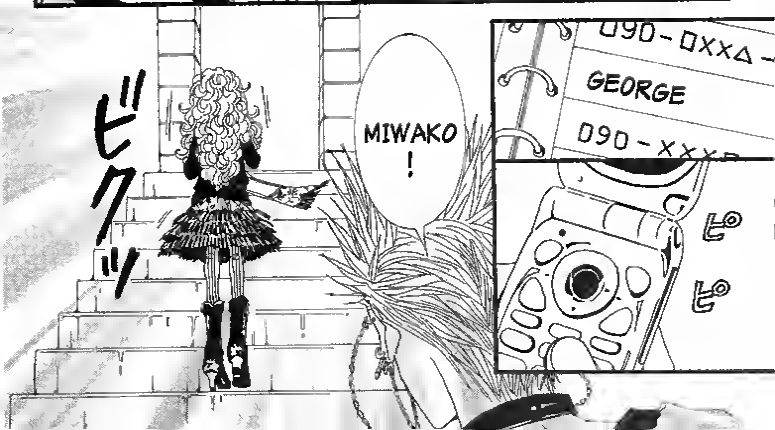
PLEASE THROW YOUR TRASH IN THE TRASH CAN.
NO ONE'S GONNA WEAR THESE DRESSES EVEN IF I MAKE THEM.
IT DOESN'T MATTER.
プルル
プルル
プルル
プルル
ビッ
プルル
ピッ
YES.
KOIZUMI'S GOING TO GET CRUSHED IF HE GOES PRO.
カツ…

MAKING CLOTHES FOR HIM IS LIKE A DRUG THAT TAKES HIM AWAY FROM THE HARSH REALITY OF LIFE.
IF HE'S THAT'S SUPPRESSED, HE'LL JUST BAD-TRIP.
HE WON'T BE ABLE TO KEEP AN EMOTIONAL BALANCE.
BUT ISN'T THAT A PASSAGE OF LIFE THAT KOIZUMI NEEDS TO OVERCOME?
HA HA HA!
Inner brain paradise.
YOUR HELP IS JUST GOING TO SPOIL HIM.
BUT THAT'S SO TRUE I FEEL DEPRESSED.
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE ANALOGY ...
HIS TALENT IS LIKE AN INNER-BRAIN PARADISE.
SAME THING
YOU'RE A TEACHER HERE TOO, AREN'T YOU?
I'M JUST A LECTURER
A passage of life huh?
THAT'S A VERY PROPER ANSWER BEFITTING OF A TEACHER.
I'M IMPRESSED MS HAMADA.
IF A PROBLEM SEEMS UNSOLVABLE, I JUST WANT TO HELP.
I CAN'T BE A TEACHER

カツン…
GEORGE KOIZUMI!
READY-TO-WEAR DESIGNERS AREN'T THE ONLY CLOTHING DESIGNERS, YOU KNOW!
WHY ARE YOU GOING INTO SAFE-MODE WHEN YOU'RE ONLY 10?!

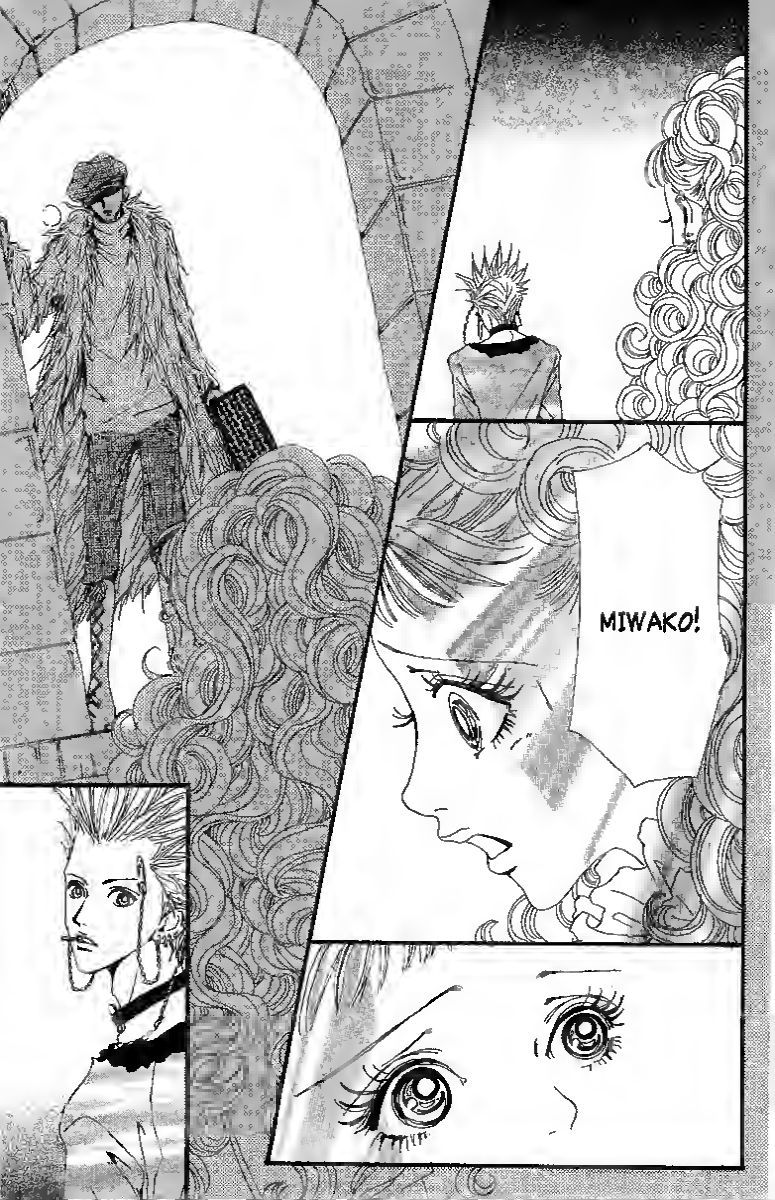
THE DRAWINGS
THEY WERE ALL THERE
THANK YOU.
A-I...
GEORGE IS LATE
I WONDER IF SOMETHING HAPPENED.
IT'S PROBABLY THE SAME THING AS USUAL
HE JUST DRAWS RIDICULOUS DRAWINGS EVEN IF HE'S HERE
I WONDER IF HE COULD STOP IT IF HE WANTED
ARASHI.
GEORGE KNOWS WHAT HE HAS TO DO
THERE ARE THINGS THAT YOU CAN'T DO EVEN IF YOU KNOW IN YOUR MIND IT'S RIGHT.

MIWAKO
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I'M GOING TO TRY CALLING GEORGE.
I'M TIRED OF REPEATING THIS CONVERSATION OVER AND OVER.
YOU CAN'T GET BY PROFESSIONALLY LIKE THAT
I WONDER IF SHE'LL GET THROUGH


ビクッ!
MIWAKO!
090-□XX△-
GEORGE
090-XXX-
ピ
ピ

YOU BOUGHT ...
A CELL PHONE?
HOW MUCH WAS IT?
I DON'T HAVE MUCH MONEY RIGHT NOW
I'LL PAY THE REST SOON
IT'S OKAY
IT'S MY FAULT FOR E-MAILING HIRO

HAVING THE SAME CONVERSATION OVER AND OVER.
WE'RE ALWAYS
I KNOW IN MY HEAD
WHAT I SHOULD DO.
OR WHAT I SHOULD SAY TO YOU.
SORRY THAT I...
CAN'T


MIWAKO!

THE DRESS ON CONSIGN-MENT!
IT SOLD.
THE STORE JUST CALLED ME!

Paradise
ISABELLA!

I USED STUDYING AS MY REASON FOR NOT GOING
TO TELL ME THAT THEY WOULD BE CELEBRATING BECAUSE THEY SOLD A DRESS.
I COULDN'T SHARE EVERYONE'S HAPPINESS ABOUT.
THAT NIGHT MIWAKO E-MAILED ME.
IT DIDN'T REGISTER WITH ME
HOW THEY FELT DURING THOSE DAYS.
THOSE TWO MONTHS AFTER THE SCHOOL SHOW ENDED..
HOW MUCH EVERY-ONE RAN AROUND SELLING

MIWAKO
S GEORGE FROM TODAY♡
(SNEAKED A PHOTO)
GEORGE LOOKS LIKE A REGULAR 18-YEAR-OLD HERE
WHAT A DEFENSE-LESS FACE
IT COULD JUST BE A FLUKE
WHY ARE YOU SO HAPPY ABOUT SELLING A DRESS THAT WAS ON CONSIGNMENT THROUGH A CONNECTION?!

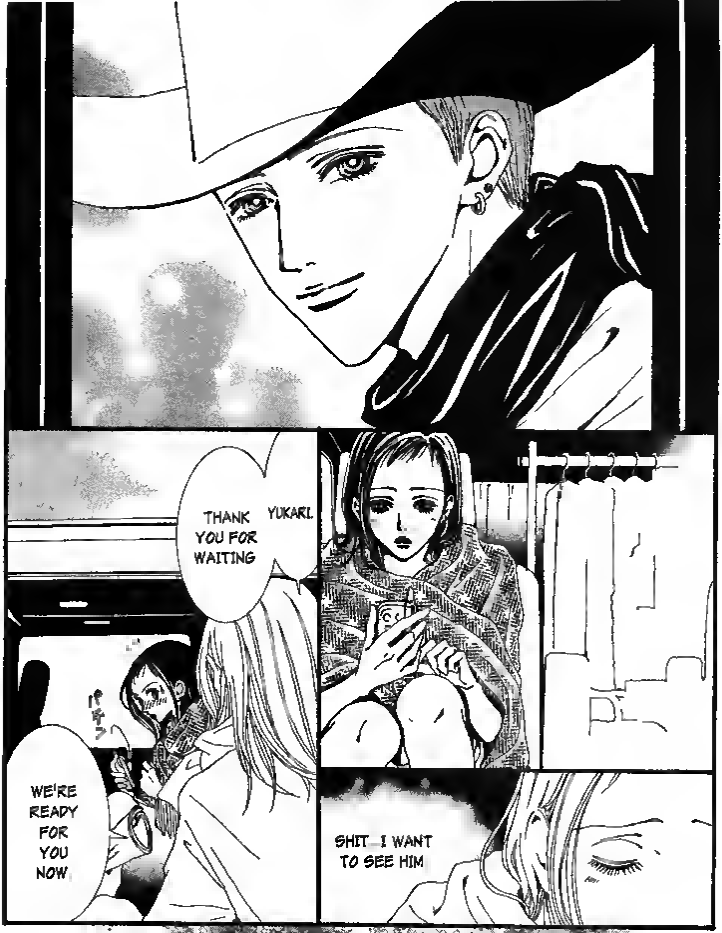
...WASN'T HURT BY BEING RE-JECTED BY ALL THOSE STORES

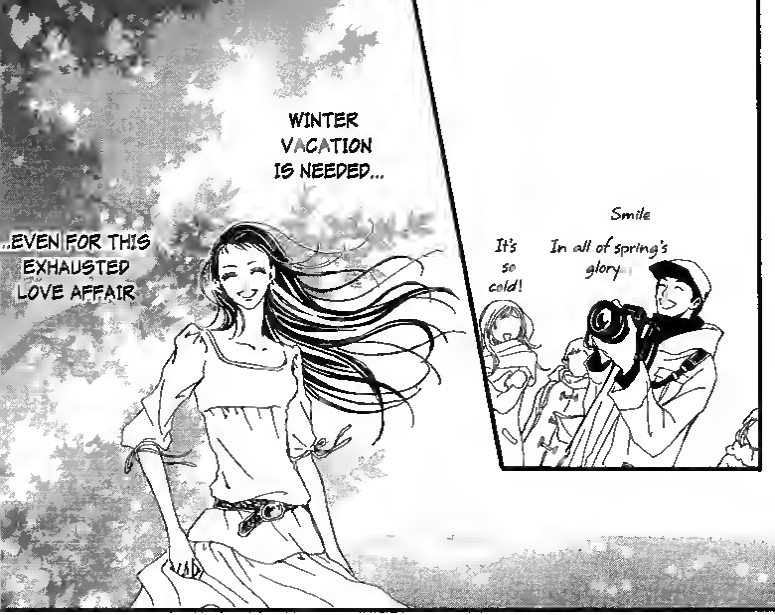
WHO'S LIKE A CHILD IN HIS OBSESSION AND LOVE OF CLOTHES

THERE'S NO WAY THAT GEORGE...

THE WAY I ACTED AFTER KAORI LEFT WAS WRONG
GEORGE HAS NO TIME TO DEAL WITH MY JEALOUSY
WHILE HE'S DEALING WITH THE BIGGEST TURNING POINT IN HIS LIFE
...I PUSHED HIM AGAINST A WALL WITH MY SILENCE.
I SHOULD'VE SPOKEN KIND WORDS TO HIM.
BUT EVEN KNOWING THAT...
...I DON'T KNOW IF I WOULD'VE BEEN ABLE TO DO IT.

STAGE 44


THANK YOU FOR WAITING
YUKARI
WE'RE READY FOR YOU NOW
SHIT I WANT TO SEE HIM
DECEMBER 16
A SHOOT FOR SPRING CLOTHES AMIDST A RAGING NORTH WIND
MY LAST JOB OF THE YEAR
SHEESH IT'S COLD
THE WIND'S REALLY STRONG
MAGAZINE SHOOTS ARE PRETTY MUCH ON HOLD DURING THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR.
I THINK I'M GOING TO CONCENTRATE ON STUDYING FOR A WHILE.



...IN THE SPACE BETWEEN US THAT CAN'T BE FILLED.

THE NORTH WIND IS BLOWING STRONG...

I WONDER IF SPRING WILL COME.
I DON'T NEED ANY
I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY.
COME OUT
OUTSIDE'S FINE
I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF CLEANING, SO MY HOUSE IS ALL MESSY

SO YOU'RE GOING TO BE A DOCTOR?
YEAH
I GUESS YOU HEARD FROM MIWAKO
ALL THAT STUDYING YOU'VE BEEN DOING SINCE WE WERE LITTLE.
IT WAS ALL FOR MIWAKO, HUH?
I'M IMPRESSED
WHAT?
NO, THAT'S NOT TRUE
I JUST LIKE STUDYING
I DECIDED ONLY RECENTLY TO GO TO MEDICAL SCHOOL.
LIAR!
NO ONE JUST LIKES TO STUDY!
THAT'S UNPLEASANT
DON'T JUDGE OTHER PEOPLE THROUGH YOUR OWN SENSE OF VALUES
There's no way!
EVEN IF I GOT INTO BUSINESS RIGHT NOW, IN THIS UNSTABLE ECONOMY I COULD GET LAID OFF, OR THE COMPANY COULD GO BANKRUPT
I THOUGHT IT'D BE SMARTER TO LEARN A SKILL OR A TRADE

...
BUT THE NUMBER ONE REASON...
...IS BECAUSE I WANTED A CLEAR GOAL
I DON'T HAVE ANY INTERESTS OR DREAMS...
SO I WAS SORTA BORED
BUT THEN WHY SUDDENLY A DOCTOR?
And a psychiatrist at that...
IT MAKES MONEY
I WAS ALWAYS INTERESTED IN PSYCHOLOGY AND PSYCHIATRY
MY INTEREST WAS INCREASED BECAUSE OF MIWAKO
IMPROVING MIWAKO'S CHRONIC ILLNESS WAS ALWAYS THE MOTIVATION FOR MY STUDIES
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TREAT HER, SHE'LL GET BETTER JUST BY HAVING YOU NEAR HER
WHY DON'T YOU HURRY UP AND DO SOMETHING?
IT'S JUST GOING TO GET WORSE BY BEING WITH

YOU REALLY DON'T GET IT!
MIWAKO'S IN LOVE WITH YOU!
I KNOW.
Don't snap so easily.
THAT'S NOT MIWAKO'S PROBLEM, IT'S YOURS
DON'T COME CRYING TO ME NOW AFTER STEALING HER FROM ME
IF YOU KNOW IT, DO SOMETHING!
SHE DOESN'T NEED TO DEAL WITH ALL THIS STRESS!
I TRIED TO, BUT...
BUT MIWAKO CHOSE YOU...
DID SHE RESIST?
BECAUSE THERE WAS NO OTHER WAY
"That's how things went."

THE FIRST TIME YOU DID IT WITH MIWAKO?
MIWAKO CRIED AND RESISTED...
BUT YOU KEPT DOING.
YOU DIDN'T PLAN ON FORCING HER...
BUT ONCE YOU STARTED YOU COULDN'T STOP
THAT WAS THE ONLY WAY YOU COULD THINK OF TO HAVE MIWAKO TO YOURSELF
IT WAS FOOLISH.
YOU TEND TO GET MORE EXCITED WHEN THERE'S RESISTANCE NOT GOOD
STOP IT!

BUT MIWAKO WAS SMILING THE NEXT MORNING LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED, RIGHT?
♡ GOOD MORNING, ARASHI
YOU DIDN'T GET IT, BUT YOU WERE RELIEVED BECAUSE YOU WERE DEPRESSED AND GUILTY
AND YOU SWORE NEVER TO DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT AGAIN
BUT AS YOU WENT ALONG AT MIWAKO'S PACE
YOU INCORRIGIBLY WENT AFTER HER AGAIN
You're horrible I just want to k...y
BUT EVEN YOU FELT A LITTLE HESITANT
Of course since you swore
BUT MIWAKO DIDN'T RESIST YOU
IF ANYTHING, SHE TOOK ACTION
YOU WERE WATCHING!
After that you did whatever you wanted
MAYBE IT'S THE RESULTS OF MY EXPERIMENTS
♪
YOU SHOULD BECOME A DETECTIVE, NOT A DOCTOR
You're just going to drive your patients into a corner

THAT'S THE END OF THE EXAMI-NATION
NOW FOR THE DIAGNOSIS
AN AMATEUR DIAGNOSIS
AS A CHILDHOOD FRIEND...
THE REASON YOU CAN'T BE CONFIDENT ABOUT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH MIWAKO IS BECAUSE YOU HAVE A COMPLEX TOWARDS ME YOU ALSO HAVE A GUILTY CONSCIENCE ABOUT TURNING MIWAKO INTO A SEXUAL BEING
BUT MIWAKO'S RESISTANCE WAS TOWARD YOUR VIOLENT ACTIONS, NOT TOWARD YOU
MIWAKO UNDERSTOOD BEST HOW MUCH YOU LOVED HER
THAT'S WHY SHE WANTED TO MAKE AMENDS, BECAUSE SHE THOUGHT HER REACTION MIGHT HAVE HURT YOU

SHE'S ALWAYS TRYING AS HARD AS SHE CAN...
...TO TAKE IN THE GOOD THINGS AND THE BAD THINGS ABOUT YOU
YOU SHOULD UNDERSTAND...
...HOW DEEP MIWAKO'S LOVE IS

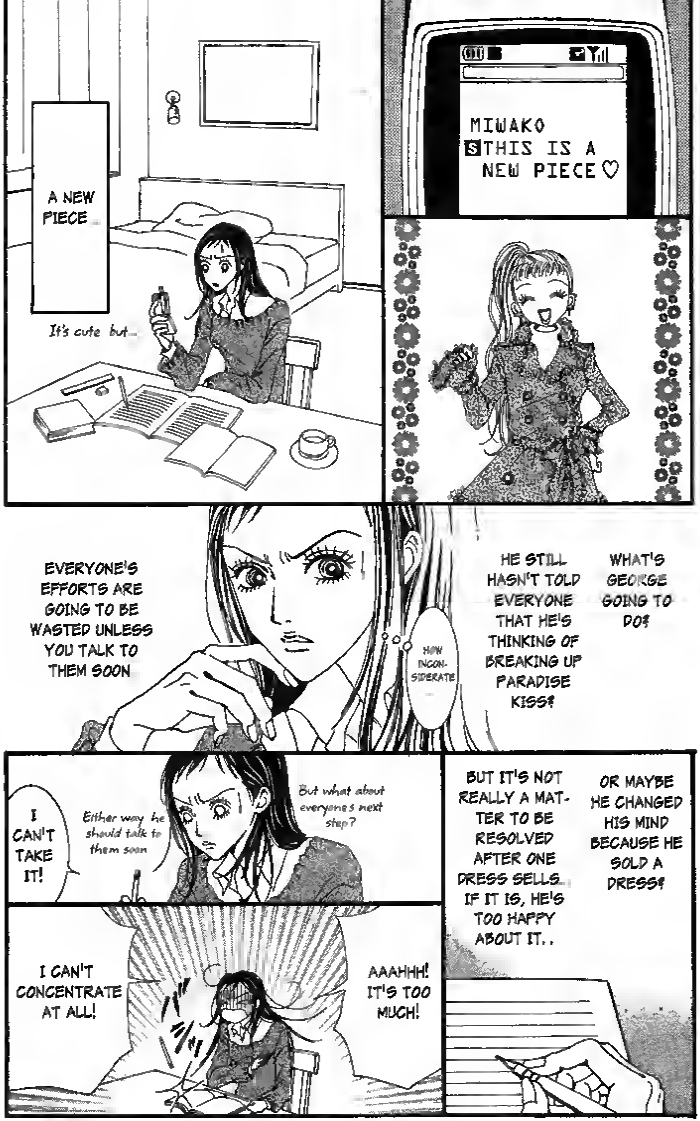
THAT WILL MAKE IT EASIER FOR BOTH OF YOU.

IT'S OKAY, ARASHI
IT DOESN'T HURT ANYMORE.
MIWAKO LOVES ARASHI, TOO.

ARASHI!
BELIEVE MIWAKO.
AND FEEL REALLY GOOD.
TAKE A PICTURE.
SHE CAME TO YOU SMILING AS IF NOTHING HAPPENED, RIGHT?
I FINISHED A NEW JACKET!
LOOK, LOOK!
It's a little big in me.

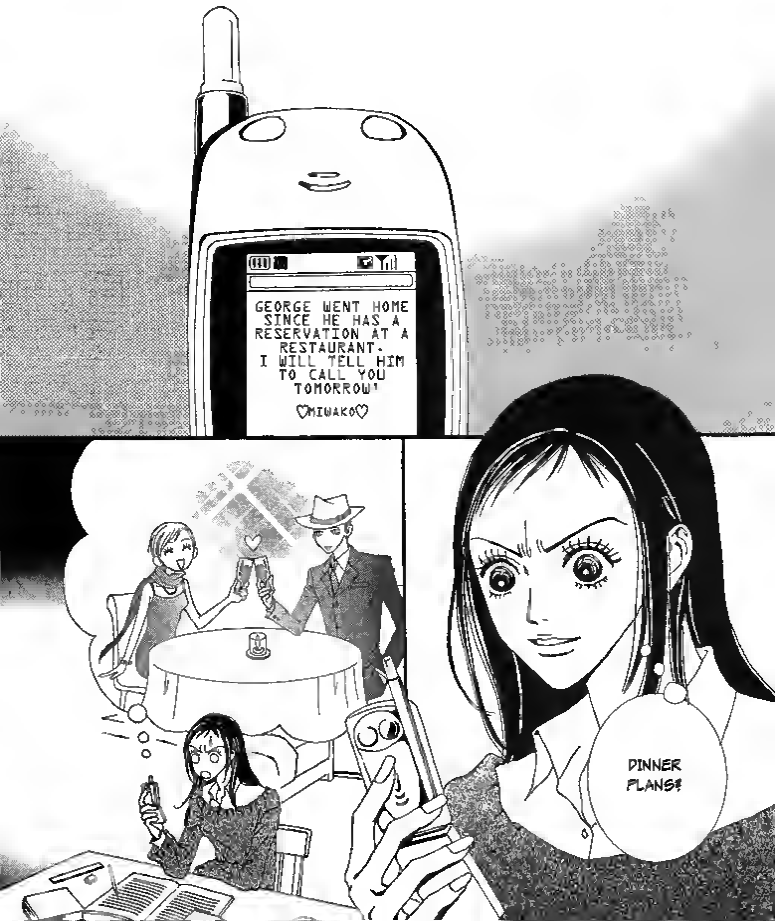
SHE WANTED TO MAKE AMENDS BECAUSE
SHE THOUGHT THAT HER REACTION MIGHT HAVE HURT YOU.
ガチャ
I'LL TAKE IT, MIWAKO
YOU'RE GOING TO SEND IT TO CARRIE, RIGHT?

SHE'S TRYING AS HARD AS SHE CAN
...TO TAKE IN THE GOOD THINGS AND THE BAD THINGS ABOUT YOU
YOU SHOULD UNDERSTAND.
HOW DEEP HER LOVE IS
WHY CAN'T YOU BELIEVE ME MORE?
THAT'LL MAKE IT EASIER...
IF YOU'RE STRESSED, I CAN SLEEP OVER TONIGHT.
WHAT'S WRONG?
Arashi!!!
ヨシ
ヨシ
SHUT UP!
You just shut up!
.....


A NEW PIECE...
It's cute but...
MIWAKO
THIS IS A NEW PIECE♡
WHAT'S GEORGE GOING TO DO?
HE STILL HASN'T TOLD EVERYONE THAT HE'S THINKING OF BREAKING UP PARADISE KISS?
EVERYONE'S EFFORTS ARE GOING TO BE WASTED UNLESS YOU TALK TO THEM SOON
HMM INCONSIDERATE
But what about everyone's next step?
Either way he should talk to them soon
I CAN'T TAKE IT!
I CAN'T CONCENTRATE AT ALL!
AAAHHH! IT'S TOO MUCH!
OR MAYBE HE CHANGED HIS MIND BECAUSE HE SOLD A DRESS?
BUT IT'S NOT REALLY A MATTER TO BE RESOLVED AFTER ONE DRESS SELLS. IF IT IS, HE'S TOO HAPPY ABOUT IT..

DON'T MAKE ME WORRY!
WELCOME
WE WERE WAITING
RIGHT THIS WAY, PLEASE
YOUR FATHER'S ALREADY HERE
IS GEORGE THERE? TELL HIM TO CALL ME!
FROM CAROLINE ♡
IS THERE A WINTER BREAK?
BUT I CAN'T COOL MYSELF DOWN
IT'S SO COLD.

STAGE 45


GEORGE WENT HOME SINCE HE HAS A RESERVATION AT A RESTAURANT. I WILL TELL HIM TO CALL YOU TOMORROW!
♡MIWAKO♡
DINNER PLANS?

AFTER READING MIWAKO'S MESSAGE, I COULDN'T EVEN TOUCH MY BOOKS
IT DOESN'T MEAN THAT HIS PLANS ARE WITH KAORI
AFTER REALIZING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ME AND GEORGE.
EVEN AT A TIME LIKE THIS, GEORGE STILL GOES AT HIS OWN PACE, AND I'M HOPELESS.
WHETHER I LOVE HIM OR HATE HIM, I DO NOTHING BUT THINK ABOUT GEORGE 24 HOURS A DAY.
EXCUSE ME
YOUR DINING COMPANION HAS ARRIVED.
HE'S FINALLY HERE
HE'S LAX ABOUT TIME AS USUAL

HOW'VE YOU BEEN?
HOW MANY MONTHS HAS IT BEEN?
ONE MORE HOT SAKE, PLEASE.
OKAY.
I'LL BRING OUT THE DINNER RIGHT AWAY
YES, RIGHT AWAY.
I HAVE MY OWN SCHEDULE.
TO CALL ME OUT OF THE BLUE LIKE THAT...
IS THAT TRUE?
SHE SAID, "GEORGE HAS A BUNCH OF WOMEN, JUST LIKE YOU."
YUKINO WAS TEASING ME THE OTHER DAY.
YOU LOOK MORE LIKE ME EVERY TIME I SEE YOU
WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET.
ACTUALLY, YOUR GIRL-FRIEND CAME BY THE OFFICE YESTER-DAY.

SO IT'S A LIE THAT YOU HAVE A LOT OF WOMEN.
OH.
FOR WHAT?
WHAT?
YUKARI?
...
WHAT?!
YOU GOT TANGLED UP WITH A WOMAN LIKE YUKINO?
YOU DO HAVE AN OEDIPAL THING!
WHY DOES SHE KNOW WHERE MY FATHER WORKS?
WHAT WAS YUKARI DOING HERE?
HEARD SHE WAS TOUGH ENOUGH TO GIVE YOUR MOTHER A HARD TIME
REALLY?
SHE PROBABLY GAVE HER A HARD TIME BECAUSE PEOPLE HATE THEIR OWN KIND
I WOULD, BUT YUKARI IS A WOMAN THAT'S AS MUCH TROUBLE AS 100, SO I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR ANY OTHERS
I'm not as tough as you are
I SHOULD'VE GIVEN HER A TALKING TO IF SHE'S NOT YOUR GIRL-FRIEND
I was just trying to trick you.
IT WAS KAORI.
NO, IT WASN'T YUKARI THAT CAME HERE.
YOU'RE NOT SURPRISED?
How boring
SORRY
KAORI
OH...

I'M NOT SURPRISED
I'M SURE SHE WAS ASKING YOU TO PAY FOR ME TO STUDY ABROAD, RIGHT?
CLOSE!
IT WOULD SEEM SO, BUT THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL.
HOW IS IT DIFFERENT?
SHE ASKED ME NOT TO TELL YOU NO MATTER WHAT
I wonder if I should...
YOU'VE TOLD ME THIS MUCH, SO JUST TELL ME ALL OF IT
I can't help but feel like a good person, which I'm talking to my father.
THE STORY IS TOO TOUCHING TO KEEP IT A SECRET
WHAT TOUCHING STORY?
BARGING IN ON YOU WHILE YOU'RE AT WORK? IT'S AN IMPOSITION
JUST LISTEN
WON'T YOU...

...GIVE HIM FREEDOM?
...COME UP WITH THE MONEY TO STUDY ABROAD SOMEHOW.
I'M SURE HE CAN...
JUST FOR A FEW YEARS
IF YOU COULD PROMISE TO SUPPORT GEORGE'S MOTHER...
THAT'S YOUR NAME, RIGHT?
MISS KAORI...
YES.
I'M SURE THAT HE'LL FIND SUCCESS AND ACHIEVE HIS DREAMS VERY QUICKLY

GEORGE!
A LADY SHOULDN'T BE SITTING ON THE FLOOR BEGGING LIKE THAT.
RAISE YOUR HEAD
I'M SORRY TO CALL YOU SO EARLY IN THE MORNING.
I THOUGHT I'D WELCOME THE NEW YEAR AT MY PARENTS' HOUSE. I'M ABOUT TO HEAD OVER NOW.
I WANTED TO SEE YOU BEFORE I LEFT.

I LIKE YOU AS A FRIEND
BUT YOU'RE NOT THE TYPE I WANT AS A BOYFRIEND
YOU SEEM LIKE YOU WOULD ACT LIKE YOU'RE GOD'S GIFT TOWARD THE GIRLS YOU DATE.
AND YOU WOULD WANT KINKY SEX
YOU LIKE ME THAT MUCH?
A LITTLE
THERE ARE GIRLS WHO LIKE THAT TYPE OF THING.
LIKE YUKARI?
Did you make up?
NO
SHE'S PRETTY FED UP WITH THOSE PARTS ABOUT ME
PLEASE GEORGE,
DON T GIVE ME MORE THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT
THAT'S NOT GOOD
WHAT'RE YOU SAYING? DON'T GIVE UP

I'M SORRY I MADE YOU WORRY
BUT I'M NOT GOING TO STUDY ABROAD IN ENGLAND.
OH.
MY DAD, YOU KNOW...
HE SUPPORTS ME STUDYING ABROAD.
I GUESS HE CAME TO SEE MY SCHOOL SHOW
HE SAID HE WOULD PAY, AND HE WOULD LOOK AFTER MY MOTHER IN THE MEANTIME
REALLY?
.....
HE SAID HE'S TALKED TO LAWYERS, AND ALL THE ARRANGEMENTS ARE MADE IN THE EVENT ANYTHING HAPPENS TO HIM. WE WOULD BE TAKEN CARE OF...
BUT I WONDER WHY HE WAS TALKING LIKE THAT OUT OF THE BLUE?
MAYBE HE'S SICK?
.....

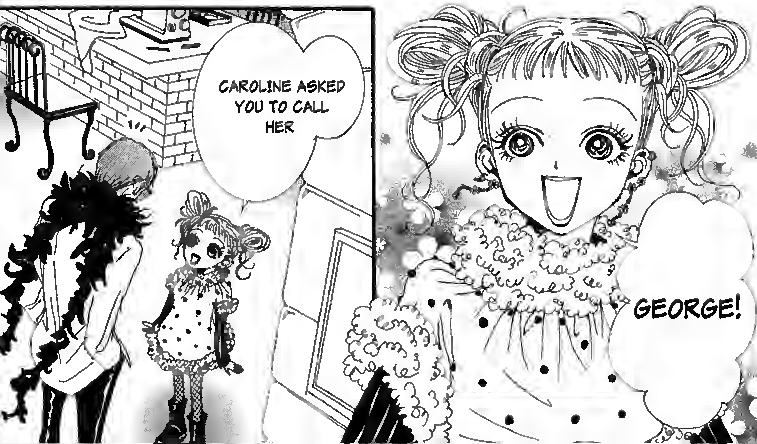
YOU SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR PARENTS' LOVE!
SO YOU SHOULD COME TO LONDON!
MY PARENTS WERE TOTALLY AGAINST ME GOING TO YAZAGAKU, BUT THEY COMPLETELY SUPPORT MY EFFORTS NOW
I'M SURE HE HAS THAT MUCH FAITH IN YOU
NO, TO BE HONEST...
I HAD WANTED TO STUDY ABROAD...
BUT I CAN'T GET MYSELF TO PAY MORE EXORBITANT FEES TO ATTEND SCHOOL
THEN WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
WHO KNOWS?
BUT MY CHOICES HAVE GROWN TREMENDOUSLY AFTER HEARING MY FATHER SAY THAT.
I WAS REALLY HAPPY

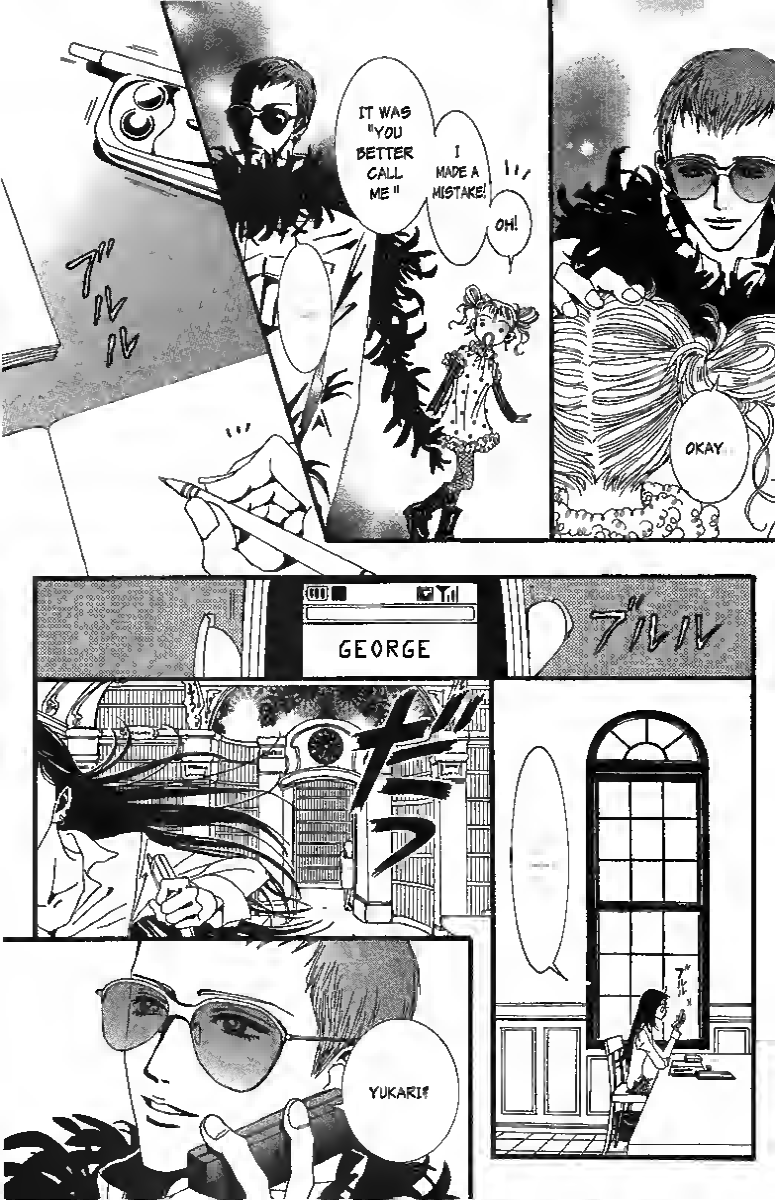
THANKS FOR SEEING ME OFF.
SAY HI TO YOUR VAMPIRE BOYFRIEND
I CAN ONLY THINK THAT'S WHY YOU PUT YOURSELF IN HIS GOOD GRACES
I'LL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HIS CONNECTIONS NO MATTER WHAT I END UP DOING.
BUT SEIJI WILL PROBABLY BE DISAPPOINTED IF I TURN HIM DOWN
THAT'S WHY HE DOESN'T AGE!
I'VE LET HIM SUCK A LOT OF MY BLOOD UNTIL NOW THAT'S NOTHING
DO YOU LIKE ME THAT MUCH?
I'LL SEE YOU OFF WHEN YOU GO BACK TO ENGLAND, SO GIVE ME A CALL.
YEAH, I DO.

STOP IT.
YOU'D PROBABLY BE DISAPPOINTED IN ME IF I STARTED CRYING NOW OR SOMETHING.
YOU MAY BE RIGHT.
I LIKE THE KAORI THAT DOESN'T DEAL WITH THE LIKES OF ME.
A FUTILE, ONE-SIDED LOVE, EH?
YOU SHOULD SUFFER FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.
HA HA!

IT'S BECAUSE YOU SAY THINGS LIKE THAT WHILE YOU HAVE A GIRLFRIEND THAT YOU NEVER CAN HAVE A LONG RELATIONSHIP!
AND A BOYFRIEND
YOU'LL GO TO HELL OR SOMETHING!
I DON'T CARE.
I CAN SEW CLOTHES ON A BED OF NAILS

I'm going to be friends with him forever.
I'm going to get a boyfriend in London.
IT'S A FUTILE, MUTUAL LOVE.
Hmmm...
SHOULD I COMFORT HER OR NOT...
LONE TRAVELER


CAROLINE ASKED YOU TO CALL HER
GEORGE!


IT WAS "YOU BETTER CALL ME"
I MADE A MISTAKE!
OH!
OKAY
GEORGE
YUKARI!

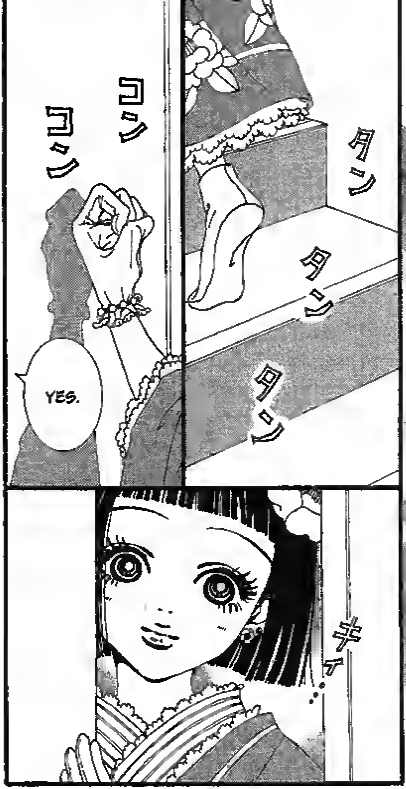
There was a bunch of things I wanted to say to you
WHAT WAS IT...!
YOU TOLD ME TO CALL YOU, DIDN'T YOU?
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
WHAT?
OH.
LATER...
I'm sorry!!!
OH!
YEAH...
I WANTED YOU TO WEAR IT.
I'M MAKING A KIMONO RIGHT NOW

CAN YOU STAY OVER THE NIGHT OF THE 31ST?
WE CAN BRING IN THE NEW YEAR.
TOGETHER
SURE.
TAKE ME TO THE TEMPLE TO PRAY FOR YOUR SUCCESS
I DON'T CARE IF I'M A DRESS-UP DOLL OR WHATEVER.
THE TWO OF US DON'T CHANGE

STAGE 46

GEORGE'S FINGERS.
PULLING ON MY KIMONO...
FIXING MY HAIR...
PUTTING ON MAKEUP...

AFTER GOING TO THE TEMPLE, LET'S GO WATCH THE SUNRISE.
I KNOW A QUIET PLACE WHERE YOU CAN SEE THE OCEAN
HE TRULY IS A STRANGE MAN
HE SEEMS HAPPY
HE'S A LOT MORE FULL OF LOVE THAN WHEN HE HOLDS ME CLOSE
AND I'LL BE GENTLE AND SMILE
AT LEAST ON NEW YEAR'S, I WON'T RUIN GEORGE'S GOOD MOOD
You look so cute
TAKE GOOD CARE OF MY STUPID SON AGAIN THIS YEAR
HAPPY NEW YEAR, MIWAKO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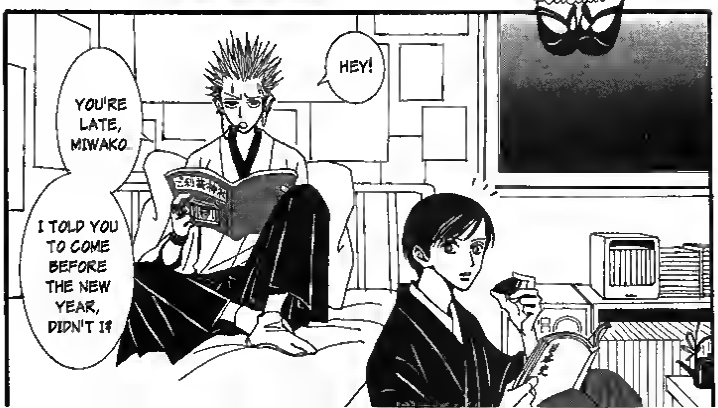
YES.


HEY!
YOU'RE LATE, MIWAKO.
I TOLD YOU TO COME BEFORE THE NEW YEAR, DIDN'T I?

HAPPY NEW YEAR, MIWAKO
I HARDLY RECOG-NIZE YOU IN A KIMONO
Probably the wig.
REALLY?
SHE HASN'T CHANGED AT ALL SINCE SHE WAS A LIT-TLE GIRL
THAT'S WHY EVERYONE ALWAYS CALLS ME A CRADLE-ROBBER
HA HA HA!
So they do say that!
ALL THREE OF US ARE GOING?
I GOT ALL INTO IT AND EVEN RENTED A KIMONO. SO MAYBE WE SHOULD GO TO THE CENTER OF TOWN?
WHAT TEMPLE DO YOU WANT TO GO TO?
WHAT'S WRONG... SIT MIWAKO? DOWN
THEY ARE FREEZING!
I DON'T THINK THEY'RE GOING TO HEED THE PRAYERS OF SOME GUY WHO'S DRINKING ALL DAY
AS LONG AS IT'S SOMEWHERE THERE'S A SCHOOL GOD
I DON'T CARE
IT'S LIKE OLD TIMES!

YEAH
ARASHI KEPT ASKING ABOUT IT
I WANTED JUST THE TWO OF US TO GO
THERE'S NO WAY.
CONGRAT-ULATIONS
YOU'RE GROWING UP A LITTLE
LET'S DO GOOD THIS YEAR.
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?!
ARASHI!!
カリ
はい

うわ
WHOA! LOOK AT ALL THESE PEOPLE!
うわ!?
GOD'S GETTING RICH
NO, GOD'S NOT MAKING ANY MONEY
WHY?
HE'S GETTING A LOT OF OFFERINGS. ISN'T HE?
THE OFFERINGS DON'T GO INTO GOD'S POCKET.
WHAT?!
WHY?
やわ
やわ
GEORGE!

You're so pretty!
CAROLINE!
Oh my god! Happy New Year!
TOKUMORI!
What?
George made it? I thought the hem was weird!
HAPPY NEW YEAR, HAYASAKA
We bumped into each other on the street once
THE TOKUMORI THAT'S JUST A CLASS-MATE
OH...
"JUST"!
I'M THE HERO, GEORGE KOIZUMI
You look very good in a kimono.
You're very handsome.
NICE TO MEET YOU
I'VE HEARD A LOT ABOUT...
SO YOU TALK ABOUT ME?
LIKE BAD THINGS?

HAPPY NEW YEAR, EVERYONE.
ISABELLA!
IS THIS THE ONLY TEMPLE IN JAPAN?!
It's so small!
WE'RE CHILDHOOD FRIENDS.
WHY IS YUKARI'S CLASSMATE HERE WITH YOU AND ARASHI?
BECAUSE IT'S A COMIC
JAPAN REALLY IS SMALL.
I DID, BUT...
YOU'RE THE ONE THAT SAID THAT.
WHY DID YOU SAY "JUST A CLASSMATE"? THAT'S SO RUDE!
レンタカー(国産)
Like I was licking it...
FROM COVER TO COVER
YEAH!
YOU SAW IT...
YOU'RE SUCH A PIG.
YOU HAD HIS PICTURE IN YOUR STUDENT PLANNER
You're a liar

I FELL IN LOVE WITH THE LITTLE FIGURE ON THE BACK
I COULDN'T STAND THE CURIOSITY AND LOOKED INSIDE
I WAITED AT THE SCHOOL ENTRANCE AND CONFIRMED IT
THAT "I HAD FOUND MY MUSE."
WHY ARE YOU ALL AFLUTTER? YOU'RE BEING SEDUCED
THERE ARE STILL THINGS YOU SHOULD AND SHOULDN'T DO
ARE YOU OKAY WITH BEING MY TOY?
IF YOU KNOW IT, DON'T DO IT!
I GET SEDUCED WHEN I'M WITH YOU
I CAN'T MAKE ANY GOOD DECISIONS
YOU'RE WRONG AS A PERSON TO BEGIN WITH DON'T BLAME ME
ALL WE DO IS PUSH OUR DESIRES ON EACH OTHER
THAT'S WHY WE'RE NOT GOOD TOGETHER

I KNEW THAT NOTHING COULD BE DONE.

GEORGE DIDN'T ANSWER.

WHAT WE EACH SEEK IS TOO DIFFERENT.

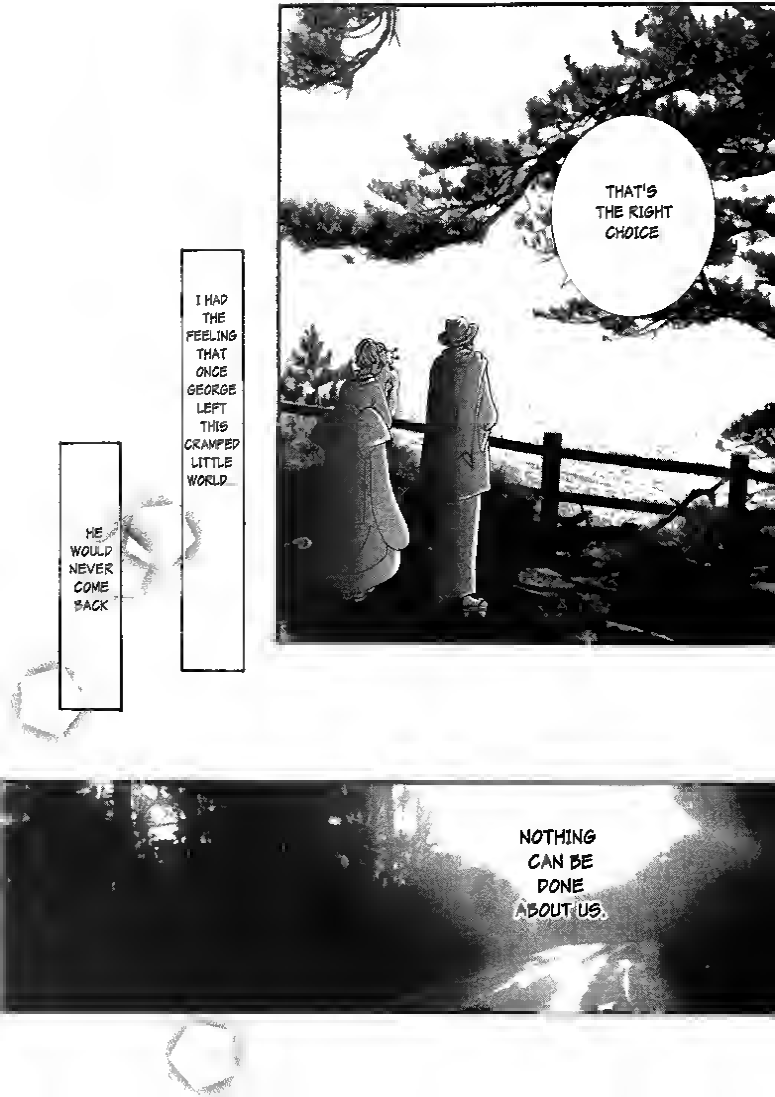
THE SUN WAS COMING UP BY THE TIME WE GOT TO THE BEACH
THERE WAS A LOT OF TRAFFIC...
YOU'RE MORE BEAUTIFUL.
IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL....
THE SKY IS BRIGHT RED!

I DECIDED TO GO TO PARIS WHEN I GRADUATE.
I THOUGHT I'D WORK IN A COUTURE HOUSE
I'M NOT GEARED TOWARD READY-TO-WEAR
WHAT?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO WORK UNDER SEIJI BECAUSE OF YOUR SITUATION
WHAT? BUT...
YEAH,
BUT MY FATHER UNDERSTOOD THE PROBLEM AND TOOK CARE OF IT FOR NOW

WHY IS EVERYTHING YOU SAY...
SO ABRUPT?
I CAN'T UNDERSTAND...
WHEN YOU TELL ME JUST YOUR DECISION
I DON'T CARE IF YOU GO TO PARIS
BUT I CAN'T IMAGINE IT WOULD BE THAT EASY TO GET INTO A COUTURE HOUSE
I CAN GET IN IF I WORK HARD
YOU'RE TAKING IT TOO LIGHTLY
NOTHING WILL HAPPEN IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN YOUR OWN POSSIBILITIES
IT'LL WORK OUT SOMEHOW

"IT'LL WORK OUT" HUH?
LET'S DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT, GEORGE.
THAT RESPONSE IS VERY YOU.
ARE YOU THAT SAD THAT I'M GOING TO PARIS?
NO!
I JUST LOVE THAT PART OF YOU THAT LOOKS AHEAD SO FOOLISHLY.
THAT'S ALL.
I'M SAD UNLESS YOU'RE WITH ME.

WANNA COME WITH ME?
I'M NOT GOING
I JUST STARTED MY MODELING WORK
AND I'M GOING TO COLLEGE AND STUDYING A LOT MORE

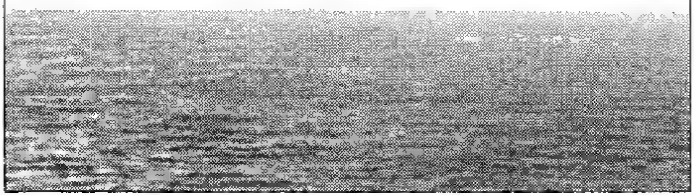

THAT'S THE RIGHT CHOICE
I HAD THE FEELING THAT ONCE GEORGE LEFT THIS CRAMPED LITTLE WORLD...
HE WOULD NEVER COME BACK
NOTHING CAN BE DONE ABOUT US.

...OF A SMALL ASIAN MODEL!

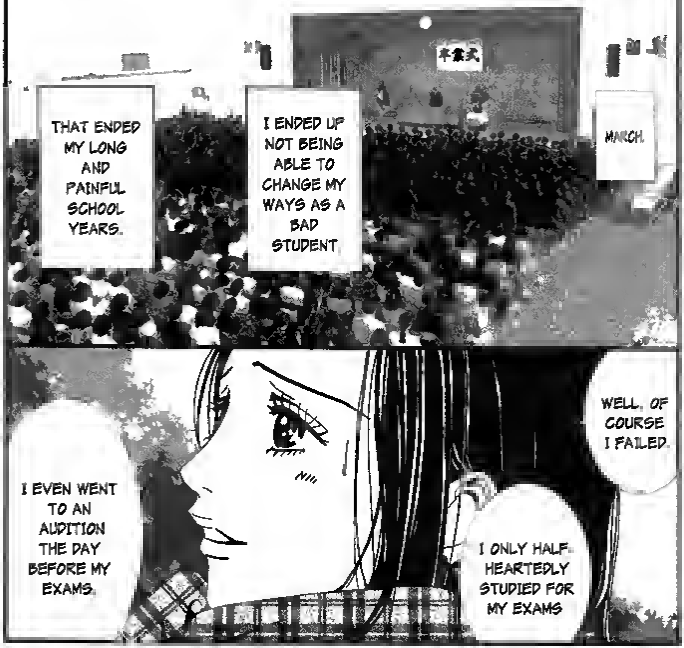
I'LL SHOW THE SPIRIT...

...FOR YOUR DEBUT COLLECTION

BUT I'M DEFINITELY GOING TO AUDITION...



STAGE 47


卒業式
THAT ENDED MY LONG AND PAINFUL SCHOOL YEARS.
I ENDED UP NOT BEING ABLE TO CHANGE MY WAYS AS A BAD STUDENT.
MARCH.
I EVEN WENT TO AN AUDITION THE DAY BEFORE MY EXAMS.
I ONLY HALF-HEARTEDLY STUDIED FOR MY EXAMS.
WELL, OF COURSE I FAILED.

A COMMERCIAL ON TV! THAT'S GREAT
AND YOU GOT THE JOB, RIGHT?
BUT I'M GLAD YOU'RE NOT AS DOWN AS I THOUGHT YOU'D BE
THERE ARE TEN PEOPLE IN THE COMMERCIAL, THOUGH.
BUT I WAS WAY MORE EXCITED THAN WHEN THEY ANNOUNCED THE NAMES OF THE PEOPLE OF THE SCHOOLS.
I'M HAPPY TO BE ABLE TO DEVOTE MYSELF TO WORKING.
I'M FINALLY FREED FROM STUDYING FOR EXAMS.

NO
...!
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TRY AGAIN?
I THINK THE BEST WAY FOR ME IS TO THINK THAT THIS IS THE ONLY THING, AND GO FOR IT
I HAVE A FEELING THEY WOULD BOTH END UP HALF-ASSED.
I UNDERSTAND YOUR OPINION THAT THIS IS UNSTABLE WORK AND THAT I NEED A BACKUP...
BUT I'M NOT THE KIND OF PERSON WHO CAN DO TWO THINGS AT ONCE

I'M SURE YOU HAVE TONS TO SAY ABOUT THAT
NO
YOU'RE DOING WELL IN YOUR WORK RIGHT NOW
SO IT SEEMS NATURAL TO THINK THAT WAY
I'M GLAD YOU FOUND SOMETHING THAT YOU REALLY WANT TO DO
TOKUMORI GOT INTO HIS DREAM SCHOOL..
..AND IS APPARENTLY GOING TO STUDY PSYCHIATRY
I THINK TOKUMOR CAN BE A GOOD DOCTOR.
I DON'T REALLY KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT PROFESSIONAL STUFF
Let's all take a picture together!
TOKUMORI'S WAY OF THINKING AND HIS VALUES ARE REALLY BALANCED
NO MATTER WHAT PAINFUL THINGS HAPPEN TO HIM, HE HAS A SENSE OF SECURITY THAT DOESN'T ALLOW HIMSELF TO BE NEGATIVELY AFFECTED
I REALLY THINK HE'S A WONDERFUL PERSON.

.....
UGH!
BONJOUR, MADEMOISELLE.
OH, SO YOU HAD YOUR GRADUATION TODAY TOO.
HEY! YOUR UNIFORM!
THEY'RE TOTALLY UNDER HIS INFLUENCE.
CAROLINE!
CAVA?
COMMENT ALLEZ-VOUS?
..SO I HOPE YOU'RE HUNGRY.
I'M MAKING A LOT OF FOOD...
Miranda, too!
♪I brought my apron.
I'LL HELP YOU, ISABELLA.
OUI
I TOOK A BIG STEP AWAY FOR A TIME, BUT I GRADUATED SOMEHOW.

THEN MAYBE THE GENTLE-MAN CAN GO BUY THE REST OF THE GROCERIES
WHAA AAT?!
WHAT A PAIN
ANYWAY, YOU'RE A GENTLE-MAN, TOO
DAISUKE YAMAMOTO
IF YOU DON'T HAVE ENOUGH MEAT, THERE'S SOME HERE, ISABELLA
I'M OUT OF HERE TOMORROW ANYWAY
EXCUSEZ-MOI
YOU CHOPPED A PIECE OF MEAT WITH A BONE RIGHT IN TWO CHUNKS
I'M IMPRESSED, DAISUKE
HEY, CARRIE
SO YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED YOUR MIND?
IS THERE ANY WAY YOU CAN GO TO PARIS, FOR GEORGE?
IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO COLLEGE
WHAT?

I'M SAD WHEN YOU'RE NOT WITH ME.
FOR HIM...?
...
I'M SORRY.
I GUESS IT'S NO USE.
YOU HAVE YOUR LIFE TO LIVE.
BUT THERE'S MODELING WORK IN PARIS, RIGHT?
THERE ARE PROBABLY MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORK THAN IN JAPAN
IT'S NOT THAT EASY, MIWAKO
IT MAY SEEM HARSH, BUT WITH CARRIE'S HEIGHT...
IT'LL BE DIFFICULT TO FIND WORK AS A MODEL OVERSEAS
BUT ISABELLA!
I PLAN ON CHALLENGING MYSELF TO DO THOSE DIFFICULT THINGS!

UNLIKE ALL OF YOU, I JUST FOUND MY DREAM.
SO... I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO PROCEED WITH IT.
I WANT TO START BY TAKING EACH JOB AS IT COMES, GRADUALLY LEARNING AND ESTABLISH MYSELF
I THINK GOING OVER-SEAS COULD COME AFTER THAT
I KNOW I'M JUST DREAMING, BUT.
I THINK ANY SUCCESSFUL PERSON WAS JUST DREAMING AT SOME POINT.
I'M SORRY TO BE SO MEDDLESOME ABOUT THINGS.
I'M CHEERING FOR YOUR DREAMS, CARRIE.
NOTHING WILL HAPPEN UNLESS YOU BELIEVE IN YOUR POSSIBILITIES

IT WAS DECIDED THAT PARADISE KISS WOULD BREAK UP WHEN EVERYONE GRADUATED
What?! I wanted to see that!
IT WAS SWANKY!
SHE WORE A MENS' SUIT TO THE INTERVIEW
GOOD LUCK TO YOU TOO, ISABELLA
THAT'S GREAT!
YOU'RE GOING TO BE WORKING FOR A FAMOUS STORE AS A PATTERN-MAKER STARTING IN APRIL, RIGHT?
I WAS WORRIED ABOUT WHAT EVERYONE WOULD DO AFTER GRADUATION, BUT...
THEY ENDED UP ONLY SELLING THAT ONE DRESS ON CONSIGNMENT
EVERYONE HAD LONG AGO DECIDED WHAT THEY WOULD BE DOING
MIWAKO IS GOING TO MIKAKO'S COMPANY
...ARASHI'S GOING TO A STUDIO OF A YAZAGAKU ALUMNUS

WHAT'S WRONG WITH CONNECTIONS?!
MIWAKO'S IS THROUGH CONNEC-TIONS
AND YOU ALL GOT JOBS IN THE AKEA YOU WANTED, EVEN IN THESE TOUGH TIMES.
BUT I GUESS YOU'RE ALL REALLY ON TOP OF IT
I KNOW
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU CAN EAT WORKING FOR AN INDEPENDENT BRAND
BUT IT'S NORMAL TO LOOK FOR A JOB WHILE STILL TRYING TO SELL PARADISE KISS' CLOTHES
THERE'S NO WAY SHE WOULD HIRE SOMEONE SHE COULDN'T USE, EVEN IF SHE WAS HER SISTER
BUT MIKAKO IS HIGHLY PROFESSIONAL.
I THINK THAT YOU SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR CONNECTIONS
MIWAKO... CAN BE OF HELP TO MY SISTER?
SHE PROBABLY THINKS YOU CAN BE OF HELP TO HER.
YOU PROBABLY UNDERSTAND HAPPY BERRY BETTER THAN ANYONE...YOU'VE BEEN AROUND IT SINCE YOU WERE LITTLE

I THINK YOU CAN DEFINITELY BE A SERIOUS HELP TO YOUR SISTER.
BUT IF YOU JUST KEEP WORKING HARD WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT IT, THEY'LL SEE THAT YOU'RE TALENTED
I'M SURE THERE ARE THOSE THAT WILL THINK IT'S JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE SISTERS
I'M GLAD...
BEING HELP FUL WILL PROBABLY BE MORE SATIS FYING THAN ANYTHING.
SHE ADMIRED HER SISTER BUT WAS ALWAYS WORRIED THAT SHE COULD ONLY BE A COPYCAT
...FOR MIWAKO.

YOUR BOYFRIEND IS GOING AWAY TO A FARAWAY LAND TOMORROW. HOW CAN YOU BE SO CHIPPER?
IT'S FINE TO BE LEAVING YOUR SULTRY SELF.
THEN I'M GOING TO GO OUT WITH A REFRESHING GUY AND HAVING A PURE, CLEAN RELATIONSHIP. I CAN'T WAIT.
I'M JEALOUS.
I'M DOING A JEANS COMMERCIAL TOMORROW. TV, TV!
I BETTER WORK HARD, TOO!
HE WOULD JUST RESPOND LIGHTLY AND WOULD NEVER GET MAD ANYMORE
NO MATTER WHAT NASTY THINGS I SAID TO GEORGE...

WHEN THE SUN WENT DOWN, GEORGE WOULD ALWAYS DRIVE ME HOME

AFTER MY EXAMS WERE OVER, I WENT TO THE STUDIO TO VISIT.

WE WERE ABOUT TO WALK INTO OUR OWN LIVES.
GOOD NIGHT
GOOD LUCK AT YOUR SHOOT
IT'S YOUR FIRST FOR TV, RIGHT?
I'M SORRY...
I CAN'T SEE YOU OFF.
YOU PROBABLY GOT WORK ON PURPOSE.
BUT WE WOULD NEVER EVEN KISS.
WE DIDN'T SEEK EACH OTHER ANY-MORE
...OR COME TO ANY RESOLUTION

TAKE CARE
YOU TOO.

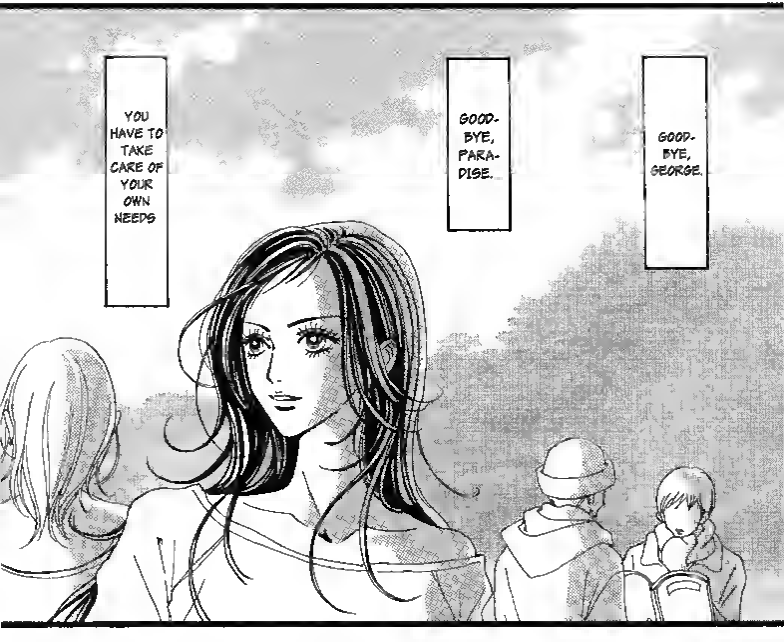
THE SOUND OF THE ENGINE GETTING FURTHER AWAY.
THE FEEL OF THE HARD PASSENGER SEAT.
THE HEAVY SCENT OF COLOGNE.

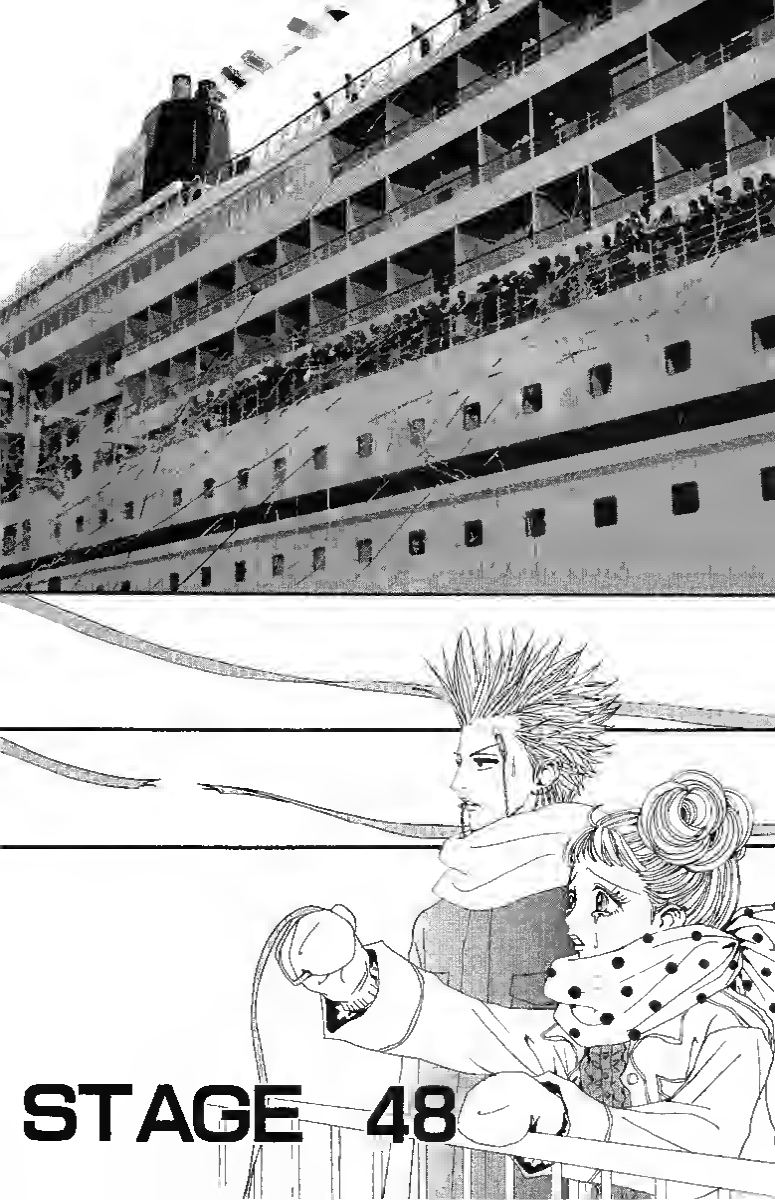
HIS WARM BODY...
HIS COLD FINGER TIPS...
HIS STRONG GAZE.
HIS VOICE...
HIS SWEET AND LOW VOICE...
...CALLING MY NAME.

THERE ARE COUPLES WHO MAKE VOWS TO EACH OTHER EVEN IF THEY'RE FAR APART.
PLEASE LEAVE ME WITH SOME THING... EVEN ONE MEMORY WOULD BE ENOUGH

WHY
CAN'T
WE DO
THAT?

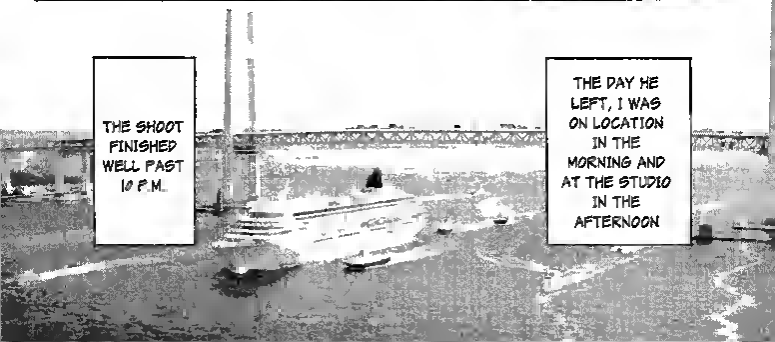
THAT NIGHT I SLEPT WITH ICE ON MY EYES
BECAUSE OF THE SHOOT, I COULDN'T CRY AS MUCH AS I WANTED
BUT THIS IS ALL I CAN DO.


YOU HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR OWN NEEDS
GOOD-BYE, PARA-DISE.
GOOD-BYE, GEORGE.



STAGE 48

HOW MANY DAYS DOES IT TAKE?
EVEN IF HE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING, IT'S NORMAL TO THINK THAT HE'D FLY
HE WAS TALKING ABOUT FLYING HIGH, SO I THOUGHT HE WAS GOING TO FLY
He tricked us
WHY IS HE SO NONCHALANT?
GEORGE IS REALLY GONE...
WHO GOES BY BOAT IN THIS DAY AND AGE?
IT'S TOO MUCH OF A DRAMA MAN.
HE'S VERY THEATRICAL STARTING WITH THE WAY HE TALKS...
GEORGE WAS REALLY GEORGE UP TO THE VERY END. HOW NICE
TIME OR PAIN DOESN'T MATTER WHEN IT COMES TO ACHIEVING WHAT YOU WANT

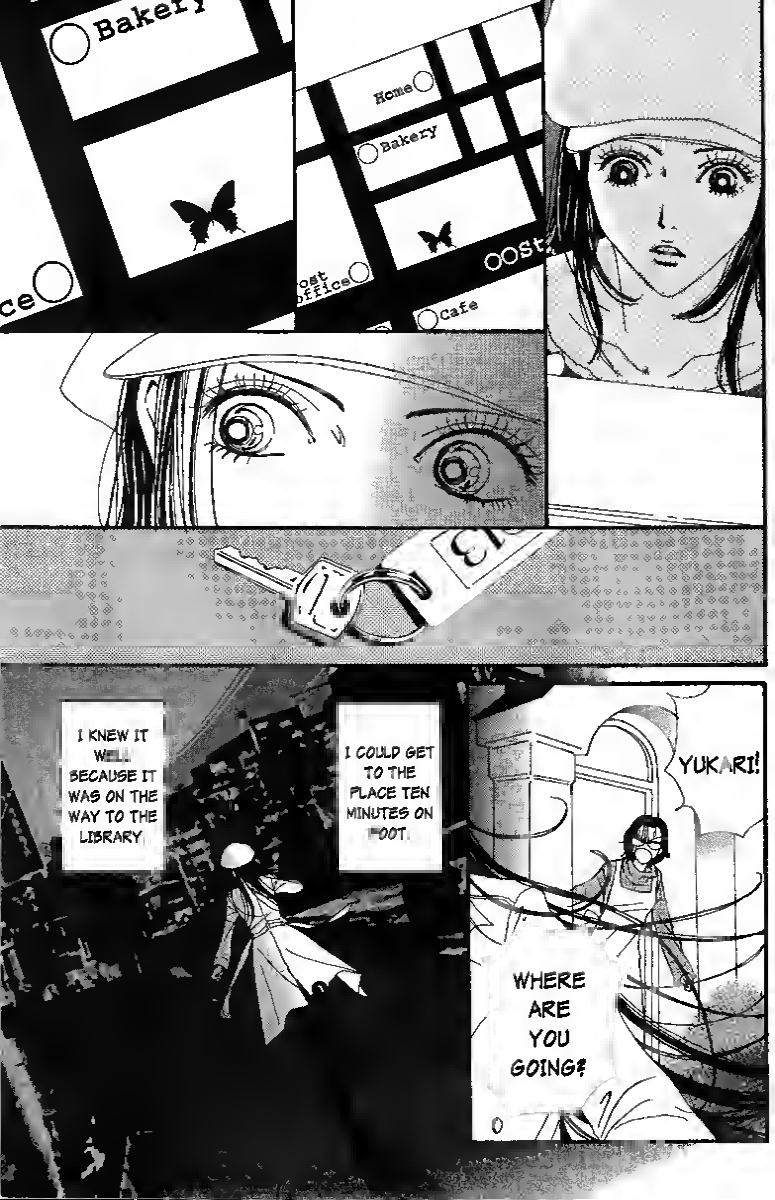

THE SHOOT FINISHED WELL PAST 10 P.M.
THE DAY HE LEFT, I WAS ON LOCATION IN THE MORNING AND AT THE STUDIO IN THE AFTERNOON

EVEN WITHOUT GEORGE...
...THIS CITY IS STILL OVERFLOWING WITH PEOPLE
MY DAYS ARE BUSY
NOTHING WILL CHANGE
MIWAKO
WELCOME BACK
GEORGE LEFT SAFELY. I'M WORRIED BECAUSE ISABELLA WASN'T THERE TO SEE HIM OFF. THOSE TWO ARE CHILDHOOD FRIENDS, SO I THINK THE PARTING MUST BE REALLY HARD. HOW ARE YOU, CAROLINE?
MIWAKO
ALL I DID WAS LOSE A LOVE...
I'M ALL RIGHT.
BUT... WHY DO THE LIGHTS LOOK LIKE THEY'RE IN BLACK-AND-WHITE?

WELCOME BACK YUKARI. HOW WAS THE SHOOT?
NN NN
FINE. WHAT EVER.
JUST BECAUSE ONE PERSON ISN'T HERE...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, IT WAS FINE?! WHERE'S YOUR PASSION?!
DO YOU THINK YOU CAN BECOME A SUPERMODEL WITH THAT ATTITUDE?
SUPER MODEL?
THERE WAS A PACKAGE FOR YOU, SO I LEFT IT IN YOUR ROOM
OH...
A PACKAGE?
YUKARI HAYASAKA
03 (3X8X) 5X8X
NO ADDRESS
GEORGE KOIZUMI
.....

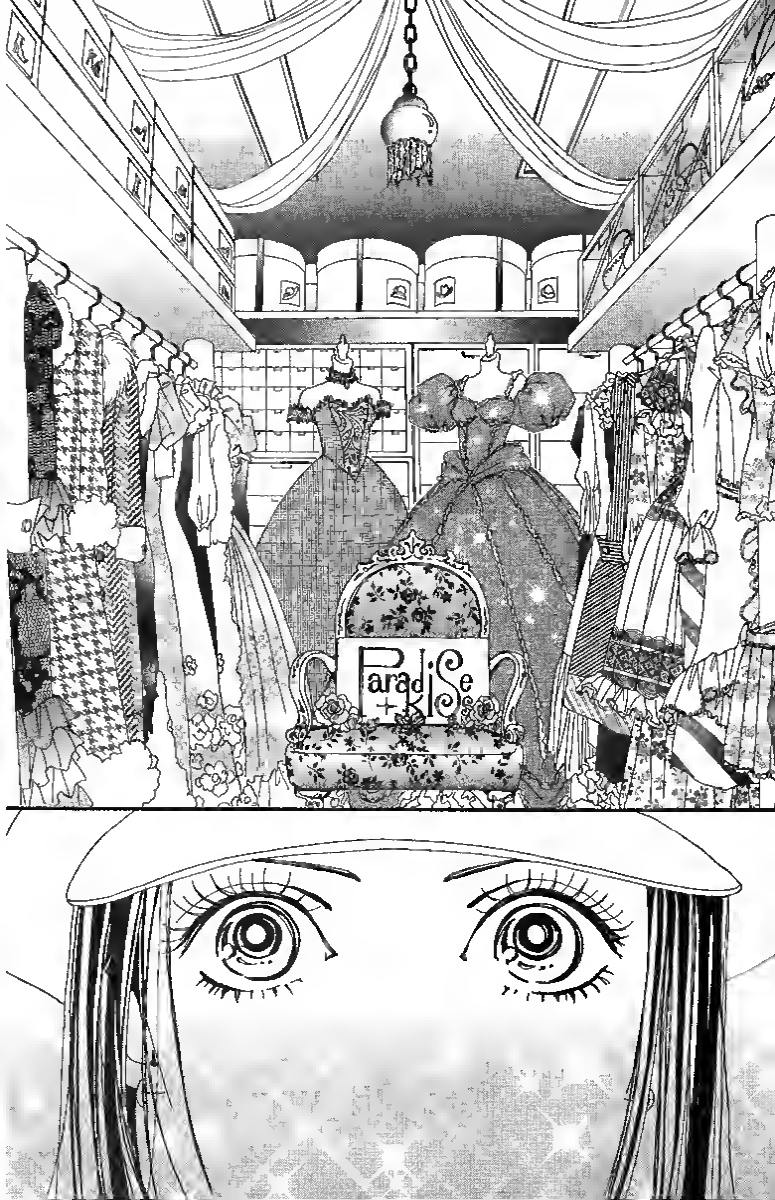
WHAT IS IT?!
A JEWELRY BOX...?
THERE'S SOME-THING INSIDE...

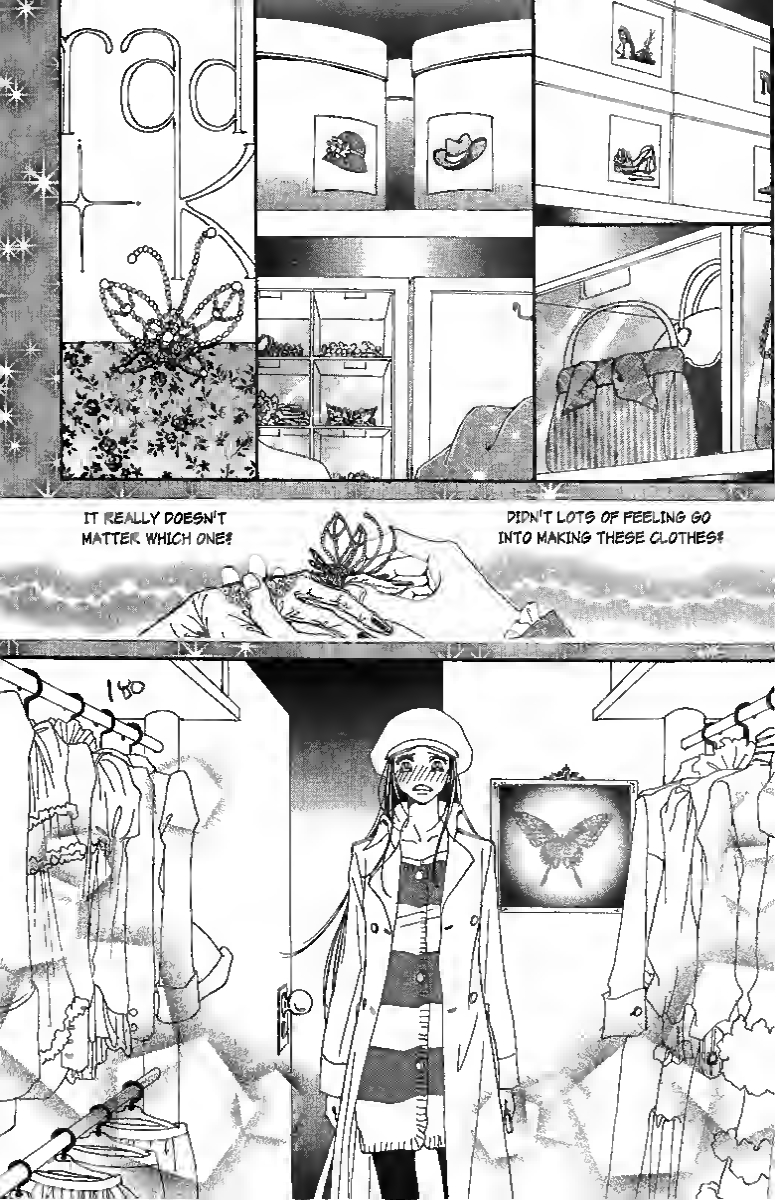
1013
A KEY...?
1013?
TO WHAT?!
THERE'S NO LETTER OR ANYTHING!
はっ
MAYBE THIS IS A TRICK BOX?
OR THERE'S A LOCK SOMEWHERE!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND!
WHAT THE HELL?!
Bakery
Flower shop
Cafe

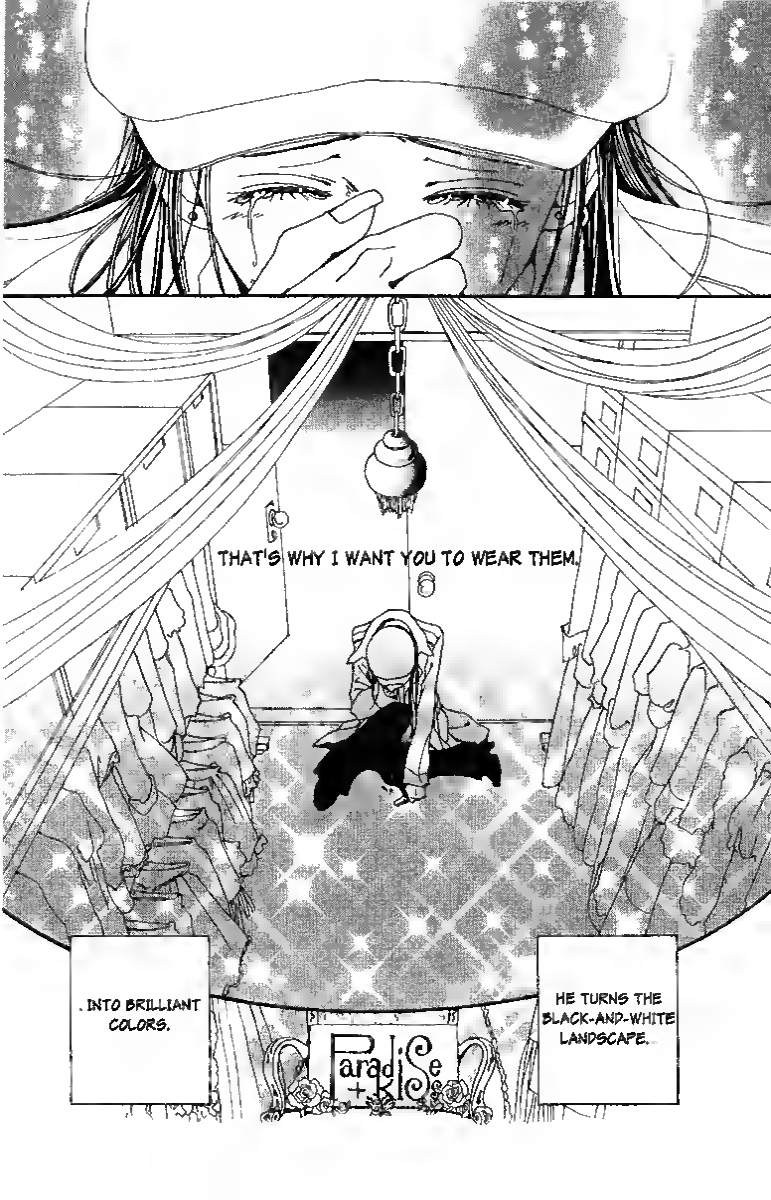

Bakery
Home
Bakery
Cafe
I KNEW IT WELL BECAUSE IT WAS ON THE WAY TO THE LIBRARY
I COULD GET TO THE PLACE TEN MINUTES ON FOOT.
YUKARI!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

IT'S A STORAGE WAREHOUSE WITH LOTS OF LARGE COMPARTMENTS
1013
1013
はあ
はあ

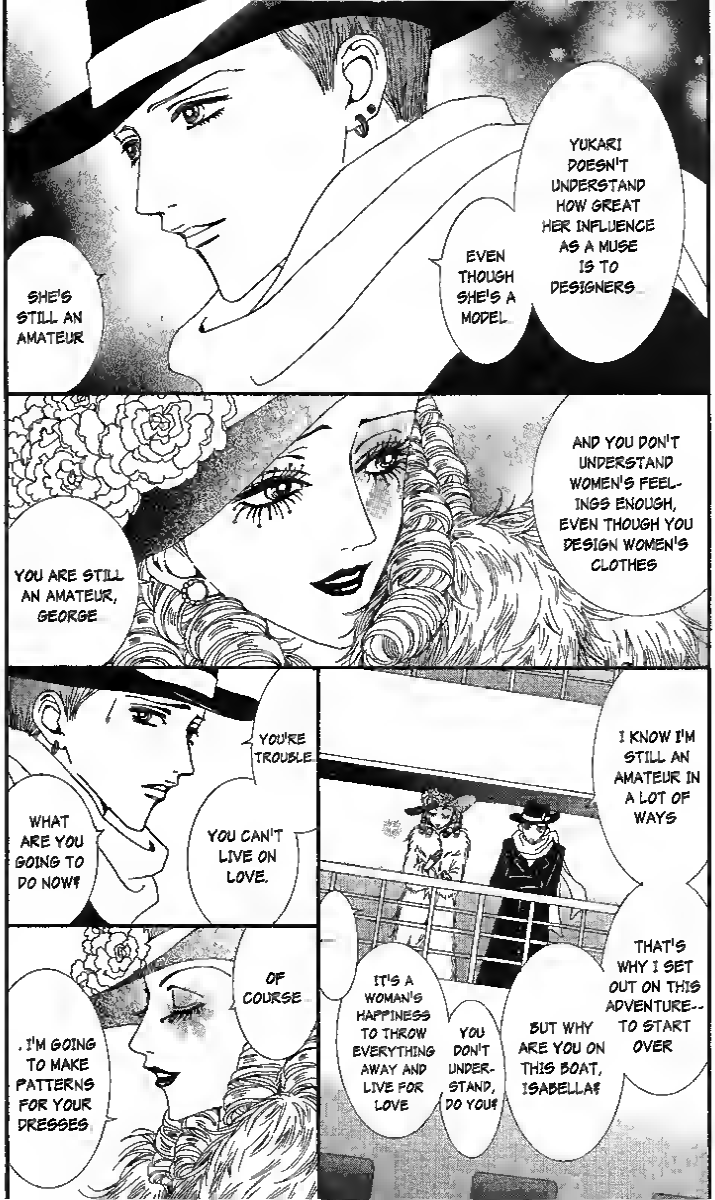
カチャ
カチャ
EVEN IF I DIDN'T OPEN THE DOOR...
...I WAS PRETTY CONFI-DENT ABOUT...
... WHAT WAS INSIDE.
THERE'S ONLY ONE THING
THAT GEORGE WOULD LEAVE TO ME.
カチャ
THE RUNNER-UP BLUE DRESS FROM THE SHOW


Paradise


rad
IT REALLY DOESN'T MATTER WHICH ONE!
DIDN'T LOTS OF FEELING GO INTO MAKING THESE CLOTHES!
180

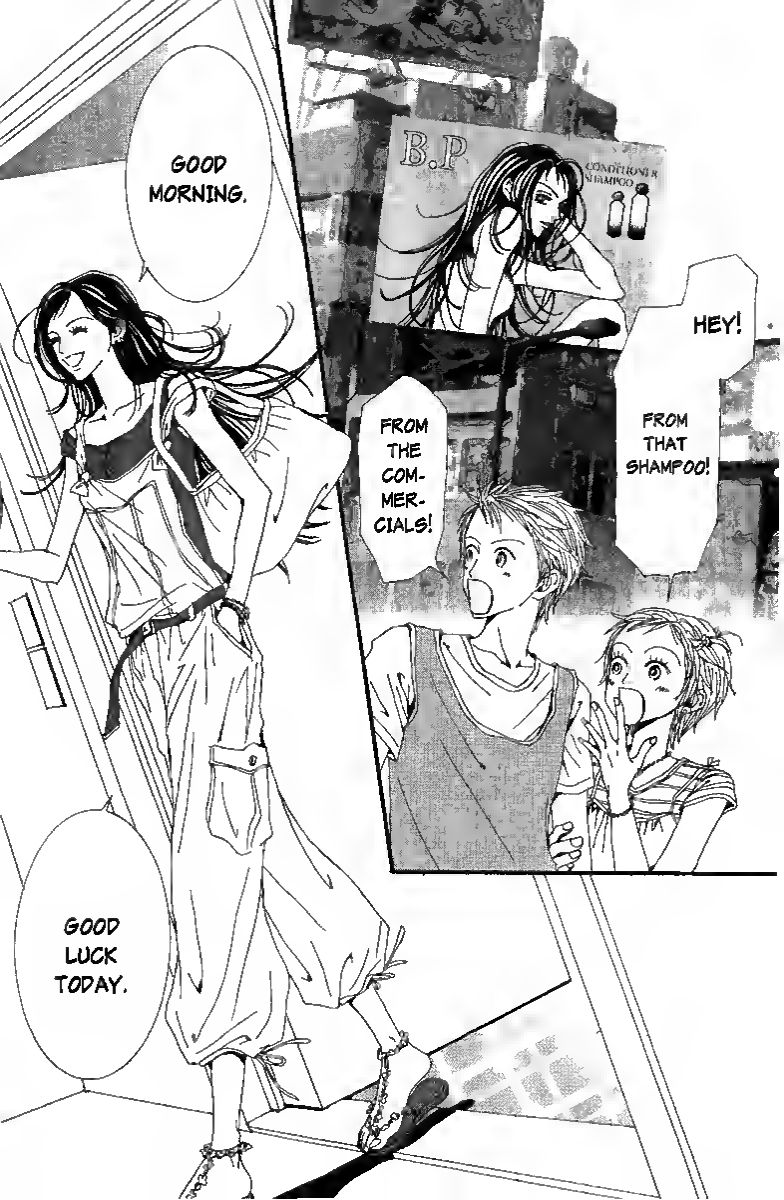

THAT'S WHY I WANT YOU TO WEAR THEM.
. INTO BRILLIANT COLORS.
HE TURNS THE BLACK-AND-WHITE LANDSCAPE.
Paradise Kiss

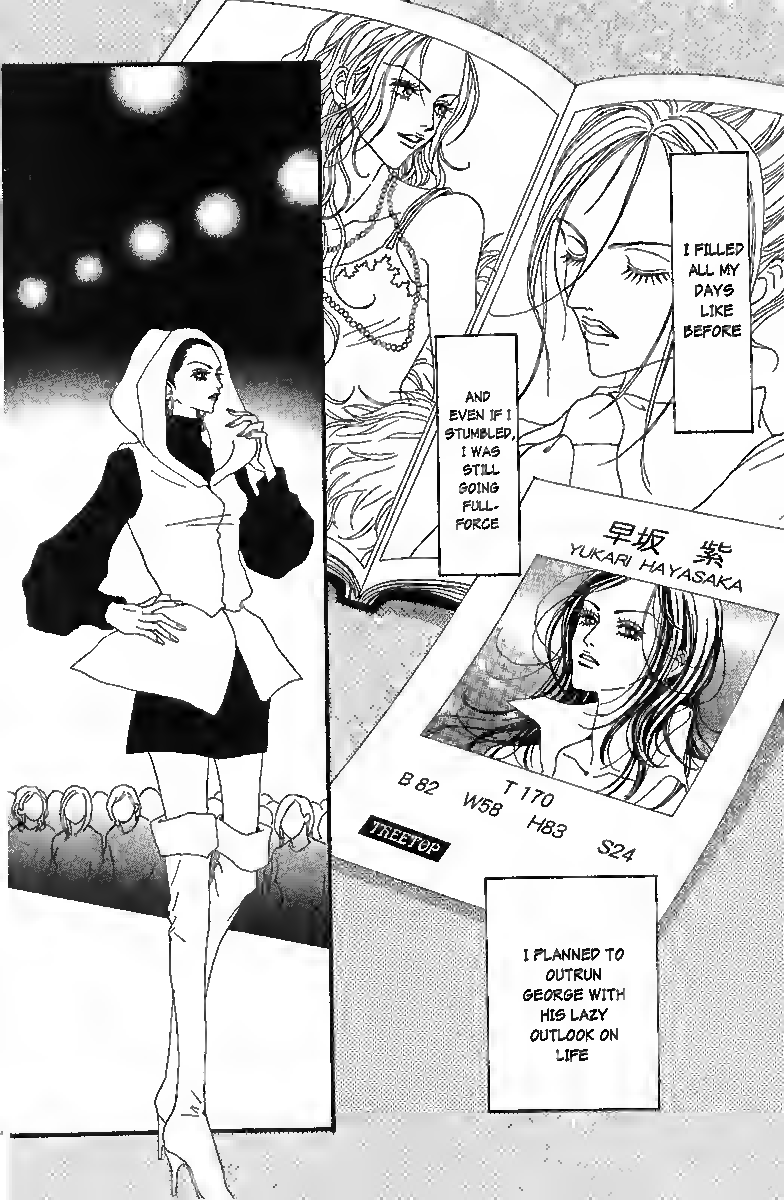
THAT'S WHAT GEORGE
WAS TO ME.
THAT WILL NEVER CHANGE.
EVEN IF OUR PATHS DON'T EVER CROSS AGAIN..


YUKARI DOESN'T UNDERSTAND HOW GREAT HER INFLUENCE AS A MUSE IS TO DESIGNERS
EVEN THOUGH SHE'S A MODEL
SHE'S STILL AN AMATEUR
AND YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND WOMEN'S FEELINGS ENOUGH, EVEN THOUGH YOU DESIGN WOMEN'S CLOTHES
YOU ARE STILL AN AMATEUR, GEORGE
I KNOW I'M STILL AN AMATEUR IN A LOT OF WAYS
YOU'RE TROUBLE
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW?
YOU CAN'T LIVE ON LOVE.
THAT'S WHY I SET OUT ON THIS ADVENTURE-- TO START OVER
BUT WHY ARE YOU ON THIS BOAT, ISABELLA?
IT'S A WOMAN'S HAPPINESS TO THROW EVERYTHING AWAY AND LIVE FOR LOVE
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, DO YOU?
OF COURSE
I'M GOING TO MAKE PATTERNS FOR YOUR DRESSES

LIFE IS SHORT.

ざわ
ざわ
ざわ
YOU CAN'T SEE HER FACE.
REALLY?
I FEEL LIKE I'VE SEEN HER IN SOMETHING
SHE'S COOL-LOOKING
THE GIRL WITH THE BLACK HAIR?
She's so skinny
HEY
ISN'T THAT GIRL A MODEL?
!!!
ク!!
ハァ
ハァ


GOOD MORNING.
B.P
CONDITIONER SHAMPOO
HEY!
FROM THAT SHAMPOO!
FROM THE COM-MER-CIALS!
GOOD LUCK TODAY.


I FILLED ALL MY DAYS LIKE BEFORE
AND EVEN IF I STUMBLED, I WAS STILL GOING FULL-FORCE
早坂 紫
YUKARI HAYASAKA
B 82 W58 H83 T 170 S24
TREETOP
I PLANNED TO OUTRUN GEORGE WITH HIS LAZY OUTLOOK ON LIFE

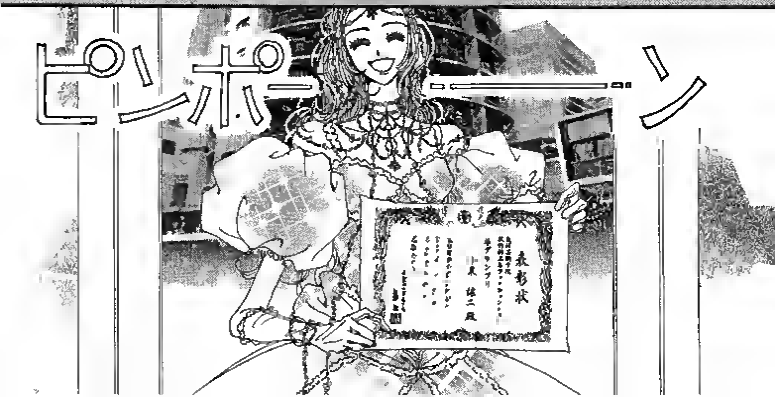
Yukari X

I WAS 28.
BUT TIME WENT BY BEFORE I KNEW IT.
LET'S GET MARRIED.

I MEAN ...
PLEASE MARRY ME.
YES.

CUT!
I HAD REAL TEARS...
BUT IT WAS REALLY GOOD.
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
See, they won't stop.
THE ACADEMY AWARD IS MINE.
THAT WAS NICE, YOU TWO!
YOU WEREN'T JUST AD-LIB-BING?
WHAT?
I MADE A MISTAKE!
OH, SORRY!
BRAVO!
IT WAS REALLY NATURAL
IT'S A SOAP OPERA, RIGHT?
THE STAGE OF LOVE
MARRIAGE AGE

I GREW OLD FOR A MODEL, AND I WAS GETTING LESS WORK
MY WORK REACHED A PLATEAU, AND WORKING OVERSEAS BECAME A PIPEDREAM
DURING THOSE TEN YEARS, I MET TONS OF PEOPLE AND WENT TO A LOT OF DIFFERENT PLACES AND EXPERIENCED A LOT OF INTERESTING THINGS
THOSE EXPERIENCES ARE MY ASSETS NOW...


ピンポーン

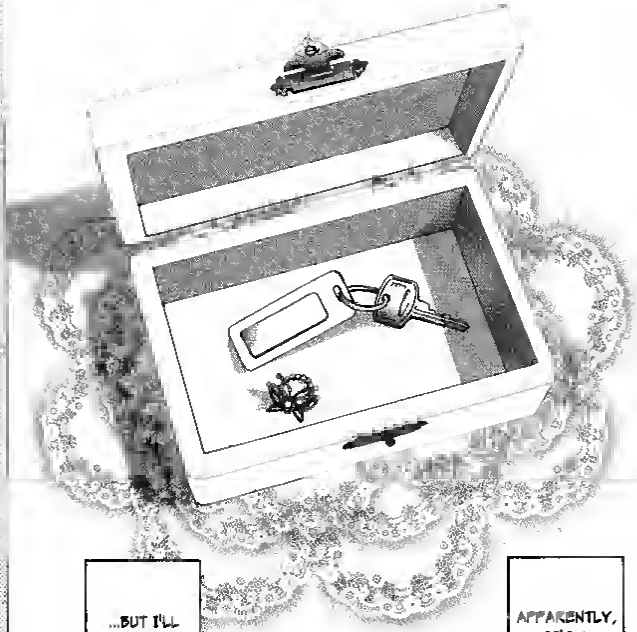
YOUR BOYFRIEND'S HERE. ♡
YUKARI
I'M GETTING MARRIED NEXT MONTH.
WAIT.
IS THAT SOMETHING YOUR EX-BOYFRIEND MADE?
YEAH.
ISN'T IT PRETTY?
IT'S A DESIGN THAT'S CLASSIC, SO I CAN WEAR IT FOREVER
IT'LL BE A GOOD INCENTIVE TO KEEP MY FIGURE, TOO
You're so blatant!
THAT'S FINE, BUT DON'T WEAR IT ON A DATE

IT'S FINE ♡
IT'S A GIVEN THAT I "LOOK THE BEST IN KOIZUMI'S CLOTHES"
REALLY ...
HE'S SO UNDER-STANDING
I CAN REST EASY NOW
YOU'RE ALWAYS FALLING FOR WEIRD GUYS, SO I WAS SERIOUSLY WORRIED ABOUT YOU
Like wanna be models and cameramen and musicians!
SHUT UP!
PLEASE COME ON IN AND HAVE SOME TEA
NO
I HAVE TO DECLINE TODAY
How nice
WE'RE ABOUT TO GO TO A PARTY WITH OUR FRIENDS, BUT I'LL BE CAREFUL NOT TO BRING HER HOME TOO LATE
NO ...
OH, WITH OTHER DOCTORS?
MERRY CHRISTMAS! ♡
Jeez!
YUKARI
Yay! Some whiskey!
BE CAREFUL NOT TO BE RUDE

I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO TELL HER AND MIWAKO APART.
I HAVEN'T SEEN ALICE IN A LOOOONG TIME.
I'M EXCITED ABOUT THE PARTY.
BUT ALICE'S EYES LOOK MORE LIKE TSUTOMU'S
They look the same to me.
Heh, heh
REALLY? I'M IMPRESSED, HIRO!
SHE'D BE SO MUCH CUTER IF SHE LOOKED LIKE MIWAKO, SINCE SHE'S A GIRL.
I don't get it
YEAH...
IT'S SCARY BECAUSE SHE LOOKS MORE AND MORE LIKE ARASHI.
I WONDER IF ERICA IS BIGGER NOW? ♡

IT WOULDN'T BE EXAGGERATING TO SAY THAT I'VE BEEN LIVING BY USING THAT JEALOUSY AS A SLINGSHOT.
PROBABLY FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE
YEAH, I'M JEALOUS
EVEN NOW.
YOU'RE JUST JEALOUS THAT ARASHI TOOK MIWAKO AWAY FROM YOU
WE'RE GOING TO AMERICA FOR OUR HONEYMOON.
WE WERE SENT TWO TICKETS FOR A HIGHLY ACCLAIMED MUSICAL...
...ON BROADWAY.

THE COSTUMES WERE DESIGNED BY GEORGE KOIZUMI.



...BUT I'LL PROBABLY CRY.

APPARENTLY, IT'S A COMEDY...

THE END

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Fashion anticipates and elegance is a state of mind... a mirror of the time in which we live, a translation of the future and should never be static.

- Oleg Cassini

Yukari discovers that the fashion world is not all glam and glitz when Paradise Kiss puts on their first runway show. Mixed reviews that focus more on Yukari's good looks than George's clothing designs make the Paradise Kiss crew think twice about continuing their fashion careers after graduation. Not to mention that the cold reception at the show has caused George to doubt his ability as a designer. Meanwhile, Yukari's desire to go to college brings her relationship with George to a crossroads that will change her life forever. Will this be the end of Paradise Kiss?

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